





# ***Tragic Comedies of Humans***

**Following Sophocles's  
*Oedipus at Colonus***

**Art Aeon**

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Sophocles's Oedipus at Colonus* (2020)

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## Synopsis

### ***“Tragic Comedies of Humans:***

Following Sophocles’s *Oedipus at Colonus*” is a drama about the Greek mythological character Oedipus in the tercet stanza. The play unfolds an imaginary trial of Oedipus at the divine court of the final judgment of the dead in Hades; how he is absolved from crimes he had committed inadvertently to avoid what the fake oracles, falsely attributed to Apollo by his sly vile foes. Thus acquitted, Oedipus is invited by Apollo to re-enact his past in a play, *Tragic Comedies of Humans*, to be performed in Olympus for the gods to watch and appreciate. But Oedipus politely declines it as he wishes to transcend into nobody. After Oedipus’s awe-inspiring sublime transcendence into nothingness at peace, Apollo gives up his plan in despair. Then Hermes offers to Apollo that he will assume the crucial tragic role of *Oedipus* to perform the play in Olympus.

*Dedicated to*

**Sophocles** (c. 496 – 406 BCE)

*Your sublime art of tragedy  
inspires me to imagine what  
you left unsung in this plain play.*

## ***Tragic Comedies of Humans:***

Following Sophocles's *Oedipus at Colonus*

### ***Dramatis Personae***

(in the order of their appearance)

**Oedipus:** the acclaimed king of Thebes

**Hermes:** the divine guide of the dead

**Persephone:** the queen of the Netherworld

**Six divine judges** of the final judgment of the dead

**Apollo:** the god of prophecy

**Acastus:** the Oedipus's antagonist in Corinth; father of Arete

**Laius:** the king of Thebes, preceding Oedipus

**Thrall** of Laius and Jocasta

**Tiresias:** the seer of Thebes

**Jocasta:** the queen of Laius and mother/consort of Oedipus

**Antigone:** the daughter of Oedipus

**Arete:** the Oedipus's beloved maiden in Corinth;  
the surrogate mother of Oedipus's children



## **Fourteen Scenes of *Tragic Comedies of Humans***

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[Scene 12] <i>Apollo and Hermes converse on Humanity and Divinity</i>	<2113-2273>
[Scene 13] <i>Antigone Acclaimed as a Divine Judge</i>	<2274-2361>
[Scene 14] <i>Departure of Oedipus into Nothingness</i>	<2362-2439>

## Scene 1

### *Hermes's Guidance of Oedipus's Ghost*

Following the awe-inspiring death of Oedipus at Colonus [which was depicted by Sophocles (496 – 406 BCE) in his sublime tragedy: *Oedipus at Colonus*], the ghost of the self-blinded Oedipus struggles to find his way to the court of the divine judgment. He supplicates Hermes for help. In compassion, Hermes comes down and leads the helpless Oedipus to face his trial at the divine court of the final judgment.

Scene 1: *Hermes's Guidance of Oedipus's Ghost*

*{The blind ghost of Oedipus walks alone on his way  
to Hades after he met his death at Colonus.}*

*[Oedipus]*

O awesome mystic voice,  
calling me from within, whither  
do you summon this miserable blind husk 3  
of accursed hapless man?  
To an unknown dark realm beyond  
my ken—to where should I move my blind steps? 6  
It is the vanity  
of man that craves excesses in life,  
inane paltry follies in empty dreams: 9  
When the blooming youth passes  
with its fleeting spring, troubles on  
more troubles overwhelm; woes on worse woes wail. 12  
And nobody can escape  
the gripping harsh hands of his fate.  
The longer lingers life, the heavier heave 15

Scene 1: *Hermes's Guidance of Oedipus's Ghost*

dire throes in suffering soul,  
and pangs of pains in wasting body  
of nobody—a fleeting shade! For those who 18  
    languish on life's weary road,  
one doom awaits all at the common end:  
Death releases us to return to nothingness. 21

*{Suddenly Oedipus stumbles and falls.  
He laments and prays.}*

Ah no more, can I move!  
Help me gods; may Hermes come down  
and guide me to see Queen Persephone. 24

*{Lightning and thunders.  
Hermes enters and gently raises Oedipus.}*

*[Hermes]*

Ah, the most piteous  
amongst mortals, what gruesome, gory sight  
you retain even after death, wretched blind 27  
    ghost of proud Oedipus!  
In your reckless, excessive rages,  
you obliterated your own eyes beyond 30

Scene 1: *Hermes's Guidance of Oedipus's Ghost*

the decree of your fate:  
If a man suffered blindness by  
nature, his ghost regains sight when he dies. 33  
Out of compassion, I  
will guide you to reach the dark shrine  
of the Queen of the dead, Persephone. 36  
You shall stand on trial  
at her court of the final judgment.  
Persephone is the only one who can 39  
restore your vision,  
if she finds you innocent and  
hence exonerates Oedipus from all wrong, 42  
false accusations from  
the tumultuous world of mortals.

*[Oedipus]*

O Hermes, I hear your kind divine voice, 45  
although I cannot see  
your visage. I repent my rash,  
violent rages that did away with my bright sight: 48

Scene 1: *Hermes's Guidance of Oedipus's Ghost*

I was too fearful of  
seeing my father and my mother—wife,  
even in Hades. Thank you for your mercy 51  
in guiding me to reach  
the realm of Queen Persephone.  
I shall obey the verdict of her final 54  
judgment in humility.

*[Hermes]*

Follow me, upright Oedipus.  
I will lead you safely through dark passages, 57  
over mystic lands and seas,  
past shadows of sunsets, and shores  
of dreams, to the realm of the dead from which 60  
no one ever returns.

*{Hermes gently holds the hand of the blind, helpless  
ghost of Oedipus and leads him to reach the temple  
of Persephone. The end of Scene #1.}*

## Scene 2

### *Judgment of Oedipus at the Divine Court*

Queen Persephone sits on her throne with six divine judges at the court of the final judgment of the dead in Hade. Hermes enters, leading the blind Oedipus. Persephone asks Oedipus who he was and what he did while he was alive. Oedipus confesses that unwittingly he killed his father, King Laius of Thebes, and was married to the widowed Queen Jocasta, his own mother. The appalled judges ask Oedipus why he committed such abhorred misdeeds unintendedly. Oedipus avows that the Delphic oracle of Apollo presaged that he had been so doomed even before he was conceived. The court decides to send a judge to see Apollo to confirm Oedipus's incredible claims.

*Scene 2: Judgment of Oedipus at the Divine Court*

*[Hermes]*

Hail, Queen Persephone! I bring  
a new shade of man for your divine judgment. 63

*[Persephone]*

O Hermes, the trusty guide  
from high Olympus, what urgent  
matter has brought you down here to visit 66  
this gloomy realm? Do you bring  
a new decree from Zeus to us?

*[Hermes]*

No. It is my private visit to help 69  
this forlorn hapless ghost  
for compassion as he entreated  
me to guide him to your court for judgment. 72



*Scene 2: Judgment of Oedipus at the Divine Court*

*[Persephone]*

Who is this disfigured  
ghost? Why do you deem that he may  
deserve our attention now, while countless 75  
other ghosts have been waiting  
on the dismal shore of Acheron  
indefinitely until Charon chooses 78  
to ferry them to reach  
this court?

*[Hermes]*

I shall not speak anything  
about him as it falls on your jurisdiction. 81  
Ask him who he was; what  
he did. If you find that he does not  
deserve your attention now, dismiss him. 84  
Farewell Queen Persephone!

*{Hermes leaves.}*

*[Persephone to Oedipus]*

Who are you? Have you been blind from birth?

*Scene 2: Judgment of Oedipus at the Divine Court*

*[Oedipus]*

I am Oedipus of Thebes. I lost my sight  
by self-inflicted injury  
to my bright eyes. 87

*[Persephone]*

What? Why did you  
inflict such cruel harm to yourself? 90

*[Oedipus]*

In acute throes of shame  
and agony when I found out who  
I was in truth, I took out my eyeballs  
to punish my hateful self—  
never to see anything but darkness. 93

*[Persephone]*

Who, did you find out, you were, Oedipus? 96

*Scene 2: Judgment of Oedipus at the Divine Court*

*[Oedipus]*

I realized that I was  
the very killer of my sire, King  
Laius of Thebes, unknown to me; much worse, 99  
that unwittingly I  
had been married to his widowed  
queen, Jocasta, who turned out to be none 102  
other than my own mother  
who had begotten me by Laius!

*[First Judge]*

What? Ah how horrible to see such vile, 105  
abhorred, ghastly villain!  
He should be scorched forever with  
blazing fires to purge his terrible crimes. 108

*[Persephone to First Judge]*

Please hold your judgment yet.

*Scene 2: Judgment of Oedipus at the Divine Court*

*[Persephone to all judges]*

I would like to investigate now  
the real causes of the horrible misdeeds, 111  
    confessed by Oedipus,  
if you all agree with me that his  
perplexing case deserves our prompt attention. 114

*[All six Judges]*

Yes, we must probe it right away.

*[Persephone]*

Do you maintain, Oedipus, that  
you had committed all your dreadful misdeeds 117  
    without knowing what you  
were doing?

*[Oedipus]*

Yes, I do solemnly  
avow it. Unflinchingly, I strove to avoid 120

*Scene 2: Judgment of Oedipus at the Divine Court*

my awful fate, only  
to find out later that I had  
fulfilled the dreadful prophecies.

*[Persephone]*

	Prophecies?	123
What did they presage?		

*[Oedipus]*

I had been doomed to kill my royal father, even before I was conceived in my mother's womb; much worse, to mate with my own mother, begetting our children from the same womb that had brought me to this world.	126     129
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*[Second Judge]*

What? Who did utter such awful  
gruesome prophecies?

*Scene 2: Judgment of Oedipus at the Divine Court*

*[Oedipus]*

The sacred Delphic oracle  
of Apollo. 32

*[Persephone]*

If so,  
do you wish to plead us that you are  
innocent, despite your abhorred misdeeds 135  
as you had been a hapless  
victim, doomed before you were born  
to carry out those awful prophecies which were 138  
somehow cursed upon you  
by Apollo?

*[Oedipus]*

I am guilty  
for my horrible crimes as I did them 141  
with my own intention  
to avoid what those terrible  
oracles presaged me to do; had I 144

*Scene 2: Judgment of Oedipus at the Divine Court*

never heard of my dire  
doom by those prophecies, I would not  
kill Laius accidentally, then unknown to me 147  
that he was my father,  
nor wed Jocasta—my mother,  
all unwittingly at that time in eventful 150  
courses of my condemned life.

*[Third Judge]*

Tell us how you happened to commit  
such awful misdeeds in ignorance as you 153  
claim, and how finally  
you found them out with concrete proofs.

*[Oedipus]*

From my infancy to happy youth, I had 156  
been brought up by the king,  
Polybus and his queen, Merope,  
of Corinth as if I were their own beloved 159  
son and their certain heir  
to succeed to the throne of Corinth.

*Scene 2: Judgment of Oedipus at the Divine Court*

*[Fourth Judge]*

How did your fortune change so drastically? 162

*[Oedipus]*

One day, a nobleman  
of Corinth accused me as a base  
foundling who would bring shameful harms  
and utter disasters 165

to Corinth. Deeply hurt in my pride,  
I went to Delphi to ask of my destiny. 168

In shock, I heard that I  
had been doomed to kill my father,  
and to mate with my own mother! In terrors  
and agonies, I fled away 171

from Corinth, never to see again  
my revered father Polybus and my  
gracious mother, Merope 174  
in my life.

*[Fifth Judge]*



*Scene 2: Judgment of Oedipus at the Divine Court*

From whom did you hear  
the prophecy that such an awful doom awaited you? 177

*[Oedipus]*

From a priest at the Delphic  
shrine of Apollo.

*[Sixth Judge]*

Did you ask  
the priest why you had been so condemned 180  
to carry out such abhorred  
horrible misdeeds?

*[Oedipus]*

No, I could not  
dare to ask such bold question, although that is 183  
the most vital truth I  
wish to know, if it is ever  
possible for a mortal to learn how 186  
the gods mete out one's fate.

*Scene 2: Judgment of Oedipus at the Divine Court*

*[Persephone]*

Your perplexing case concerns with  
the crucial matter on the divine justice. 189

Do you wish to plead this court  
to appeal to Apollo so that  
he may reveal to us the reason why 192  
you had been foreordained  
to commit such horrible crimes  
ere you were conceived?

*[Oedipus]*

Of course, I do entreat 195  
you for it, if it be  
ever possible!

*[Persephone to the judges]*

Would you debate  
on the merit of Oedipus's plea and 198  
decide on what action  
we must take on.

*Scene 2: Judgment of Oedipus at the Divine Court*

*[Second Judge]*

We should ask  
Apollo why Oedipus had been condemned 201  
to do such horrible  
misdeeds that he strove to avoid  
resolutely, if what he has attested to us 204  
is true.

*[First Judge]*

I disagree.  
We should not intrude in secret  
divine affairs about the fates of paltry 207  
mortals.

*[Third Judge]*

There is nothing wrong  
in asking Apollo to tell us.  
If he refuses, then so be it as we 210  
cannot compel him to  
reveal his secret, yet we tried  
to do our best.

*Scene 2: Judgment of Oedipus at the Divine Court*

*[Fourth Judge]*

The case of Oedipus	213
raises a vital question:	
What is the divine justice? Is it	
the secret whims of the Olympian gods,	216
or the inevitable	
workings of necessity?	

*[Fifth Judge]*

By all means, we should try to find out the true	219
nature of divine justice.	
Otherwise, what are we judging	
here empty-headed utterly meaninglessly?	222

*[Sixth Judge]*

If you approve me, I	
will go to Olympus to see	
Apollo and persuade him to speak	225
on the enigma of	
Oedipus's fate, pleading humbly	
for his wise help to us to make a fair judgment.	228

*Scene 2: Judgment of Oedipus at the Divine Court*

*[Persephone to all judges]*

That is a prudent and  
righteous idea. Would you all  
approve of the proposal to persuade Apollo? 231

*[All Judges]*

Yes, we agree on it.

*[Persephone to Sixth Judge]*

Please go to Apollo and tell him  
that it was the unanimous decision 234  
of our court to send you  
to him for his wise advice on  
how to resolve the perplexing weird case 237  
of Oedipus. Now, I adjourn  
the present session of this court  
until we hear from Apollo.

*Scene 2: Judgment of Oedipus at the Divine Court*

*[Oedipus moved in tears]*

Thank you,	240
gracious Queen Persephone	
and judges! Your wise and prudent	
action is beyond what I could ever dream of.	243

*{Sixth Judge leaves for Olympus with her attendants.  
The end of Scene #2.}*

## Scene 3

### *Faked Oracles Attributed to Apollo*

A divine judge comes to verify with Apollo in Olympus the validity of Oedipus's claims about the bizarre and fateful oracle of his fate. Apollo asserts that he knows nothing of a paltry mortal, called Oedipus, let alone that he gave such an absurd oracle to anyone; he is indignant that vile humans make up such blatant fibs to blame gods as false excuses for their horrible crimes. He advises the judge to find out the truth, and then tell him who conjured up such a gruesome hoax.

Scene 3: *Faked Oracles Attributed to Apollo*

*{Apollo in Olympus courteously receives  
Sixth Judge from Hades.}*

*[Apollo]*

Welcome to Olympus!  
Do you bring an urgent message  
to me from Queen Persephone?

*[Sixth Judge]*

	Hail you,	246
Apollo, the wise god		
of prophecy! I was sent by		
the court of the final judgment of the dead		249
to entreat you to help		
us on an intricate case beyond		
our limited ken.		

*[Apollo]*

The final judgment is	252
entirely your power	
to decide beyond my jurisdiction.	



Scene 3: *Faked Oracles Attributed to Apollo*

I wonder why your court has deemed that I  
may help you solve the case. 255

*[Sixth Judge]*

Because it seems to implicate  
your prophecy as the crucial factor. 258

*[Apollo]*

What? My prophecy? Tell  
me more about the case.

*[Sixth Judge]*

We have a bold  
defendant, named Oedipus of Thebes; he 261  
killed his father, Laius,  
the king of Thebes, and then married  
his mother, Jocasta, the widowed queen. 264

Scene 3: *Faked Oracles Attributed to Apollo*

*[Apollo]*

What? I don't want to be  
bothered to hear such vile, gruesome  
misdeeds among accursed mortals. How did you 267  
dare to come to disturb me?

*[Sixth Judge]*

We are concerned with the crucial  
matter of the divine justice; that is what 270  
brought me here to see you.

*[Apollo]*

Divine justice? What have I any thing  
to do with that?

*[Sixth Judge]*

It had something to do 273  
with your perplexing prophecy,  
we surmised.

Scene 3: *Faked Oracles Attributed to Apollo*

*[Apollo]*

What do you really mean?  
How could my prophecy be implicated 276  
in such horrible crimes,  
committed by evil mortals?

*[Sixth Judge]*

The defendant confessed that he did carry 279  
out such horrible misdeeds.  
But he insisted that all his misdeeds  
were mere accidents that ensued from his 282  
resolute actions to  
avoid the fulfillment of your  
awful prophecies about his fate, cursed on 285  
him even before he  
was conceived in the womb of his  
mother, Jocasta, by Laius.

Scene 3: *Faked Oracles Attributed to Apollo*

*[Apollo, chuckling]*

What an absurd farce do you play on me,	288
witty Judge from dark Hades!	
I know nothing of such a vile	
villain, you call Oedipus. How could he	291
dare to lie that he heard	
from me such an absurd gruesome	
prophecy? I wonder how he could have	294
been so successful in	
deceiving you, wise judges of his	
final judgment. Do you deem Oedipus	297
as a ' <i>super god</i> ' who	
claims to know his fate, even	
before he was conceived in his mother's womb?	300

*[Sixth Judge]*

O wise Apollo! Your	
cogent clarification opens	
my blind eyes. Indeed, we needed your crucial	303
help to solve the problem.	
Oedipus shall learn soon what dire	
punishments he will suffer for his grave	306

Scene 3: *Faked Oracles Attributed to Apollo*

false accusation of  
your prophecies about his ghastly  
horrible misdeeds.

*[Apollo]*

The cunning mortals	309
make up such blatant fibs	
to blame the gods for false excuses	
of their horrible misdeeds. When you find	312
out concrete facts about	
your bizarre case, please come back,	
and let me know how the sly mortals had	315
conjured up such gruesome	
tragedies to indulge themselves	
in tormenting each other.	

*[Sixth Judge]*

Yes, I shall	318
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**Scene 3: *Faked Oracles Attributed to Apollo***

report to you concrete facts  
when we will find out about this grave  
matter as it touches on the very validity  
of the divine justice.  
Farewell, thank you for your wisdom!

321

*{Sixth Judge leaves Olympus for Hade.  
The end of Scene #3. }*

## Scene 4

### *Oedipus's Suspicion of Acastus's Plot*

Oedipus is deeply relieved to learn that Apollo had never condemned him with the awful prophecy. Hence, he suspects that it might have been a hoax, plotted by Acastus, a wily ambitious noble of Corinth. Oedipus was brought up as the beloved son of King Polybus and Queen Merope of Corinth. In his happy youth, Oedipus fell in love with Arete, the daughter of Acastus; he slandered that Oedipus was a base foundling who would bring harm and shame, and thus must be banished lest he should become a terrible tyrant of Corinth. Polybus threatened to exile Acastus and his family. But Acastus appealed to hear the Delphic judgement on the case. Acastus lured proud and anxious Oedipus to the Delphic shrine. A priest cursed Oedipus that he had been condemned to kill his father and mate with his mother. In shock and terror, Oedipus fled, vowing that he should never see Polybus and Merope again in his life lest the curse might be fulfilled.

Scene 4: *Oedipus's Suspicion of Acastus's Plot*

*{Sixth Judge returns. The court resumes its session.}*

*[Sixth Judge]*

You cunning vile villain, Oedipus! How 324  
did you dare to conjure  
up such a false accusation  
of Apollo for the absurd prophecies 327  
about your gruesome abhorred  
misdeeds that you committed at your will?

*[Oedipus in great surprise]*

I cannot understand what you mean, judge: 330  
Did Apollo deny  
that he had made such prophecies  
about Oedipus through his priest at the sacred 333  
shrine in Delphi?

*[Sixth Judge]*

Apollo  
asserted that he knew nothing of  
a mortal, called Oedipus, let alone spoke 336



Scene 4: *Oedipus's Suspicion of Acastus's Plot*

such false, absurd, gruesome  
prophecies to anyone.

*[Oedipus elated in ecstasy]*

O, righteous  
Apollo, you are the saviour of my soul! 339

Then, it was not your will  
nor Zeus's to condemn Oedipus!  
Nothing more could I have ever hoped to 342  
find out, bearing all throes  
of dire agonies throughout my harsh  
tormenting life, at last!

*[Persephone]*

Why do you rejoice, 345  
Oedipus, to hear such  
stern denial by Apollo?  
No more can you blame the god for your horrid 348  
crimes that you committed  
resolutely with your sane mind.

Scene 4: *Oedipus's Suspicion of Acastus's Plot*

*[Oedipus]*

Please help me find out the mortal felons	351
who schemed such a deadly	
doom to Oedipus. It was the priest	
at Delphi, not Apollo himself—no man	354
alive can see a god speaking	
to him—that told me the awful	
oracle. Hold! It might be a dark plot	357
of cunning Acastus	
to expel me from Corinth in shame.	

*[Second Judge]*

Who is this Acastus of Corinth? Why	360
do you implicate him	
for your misfortune?	

*[Oedipus]*

I wish to	
tell you the story of my youth in Corinth:	363

Scene 4: *Oedipus's Suspicion of Acastus's Plot*

How I was compelled to  
consult with the oracle at  
Delphi to ask who my real parents were. 366

*[Persephone]*

Yes. We want to know all  
crucial concrete events that occurred  
in your tumultuous life.

*[Oedipus]*

During my blessed 369  
happy youth in Corinth,  
I grew up as a beloved proud  
son of King Polybus and Queen Merope. 372  
They brought me up with great  
loving cares of devoted parents:  
I received the best education and I 375  
excelled all noble youths  
of Corinth in intelligence,  
prowess, and courage. The people adored me 378  
as their beloved bright prince.

*Scene 4: Oedipus's Suspicion of Acastus's Plot*

In my twenty, I fell deeply  
in love with Arete, a lovely tender 381  
maiden of a noble  
family in Corinth. One day,  
she told me in anguish that her father, 384  
Acastus, forbade our love;  
He insisted that I was not a real  
son of King Polybus but a base foundling 387  
who would bring harm and shame  
to Corinth. Deeply offended, I  
complained my parents about the terrible 390  
insult by Acastus.  
In wrath, King Polybus threatened  
to exile Acastus, accusing him 393  
for plotting to remove  
his heir to the throne. But Acastus  
appealed to the Corinthians that his claim 396  
be judged by an oracle  
to be given by Apollo  
at Delphi. If the oracle affirmed 399  
that I was a true son  
of Polybus, then Acastus would  
grant me to wed his daughter, Arete. 402

Scene 4: *Oedipus's Suspicion of Acastus's Plot*

But if I turn out to be  
a foundling as he insisted,  
then I should be banished lest I become  
a terrible tyrant  
of Corinth. 405

*[Second Judge]*

Vaguely, I recall  
that Acastus of Corinth came here some  
years ago. How did Polybus  
meet the challenge by Acastus?  
Did he go to Delphi to consult with  
the oracle? 408  
411

*[Oedipus]*

No. He  
dismissed it as a cunning plot  
and refused to consult with the oracle. 414  
But the ill rumours rampaged  
wildly like the dreadful plague of  
death to me; I became deeply suspicious 417

*Scene 4: Oedipus's Suspicion of Acastus's Plot*

about myself that I must be  
the real foundling, accursed to bring harm  
and shame to Corinth. When I met the son 420  
of Acastus on the street,  
he insulted me as a coward  
who evaded their fair challenge to find out 423  
the truth of my parentage.  
I swore him that I was determined  
to go with him to hear the verdict of 426  
the oracle at Delphi,  
defying the forbiddance by  
Polybus. In secret, I left for Delphi 429  
with my three trusty servants.  
When we reached the precinct of the shrine  
after a long hard journey, the son of Acastus 432  
with his retinue of  
many servants greeted us. It was  
a pleasant surprise to see my beloved 435  
Arete, smiling in hope  
and trembling in fear among them.  
She wanted to hear the crucial verdict herself 438  
with me.

Scene 4: *Oedipus's Suspicion of Acastus's Plot*

*[Third Judge]*

From whom did you  
hear the prophecy of Apollo?

*[Oedipus]*

A priest in splendid robes met us outside	441
the sacred shrine. He asked	
in a solemn voice what we wanted to	
learn from him. I said that I wished to know	444
who my parents were in truth.	
Suddenly, the priest beat me harshly,	
shouting in indignant fury: " <i>Go away,</i>	447
<i>you accursed rogue! How do</i>	
<i>you dare to pollute this holy shrine!</i>	
<i>You are doomed to kill your father, and mate</i>	450
<i>with your mother on his bed!"</i>	
In shocks of horrors and agonies,	
I fell and swooned. When I regained my sense	453
I saw my trusty servants	
trembling in awe and pity.	
" <i>I banish my hateful damned self,</i> " said I,	456

Scene 4: *Oedipus's Suspicion of Acastus's Plot*

*“never to return to  
my sweet homeland Corinth while King  
Polybus or Queen Merope lives, lest I* 459  
*might fulfill the awful  
prophecy of my accursed fate.”*  
I got up and ran away like a mad dog, 462  
struggling to flee from  
the deadly grips of my doomed fate.

*[Third Judge]*

Your piteous story of the weird events 465  
at Delphi sounds to me  
like a sly hoax in a comedy.  
Have you ever suspected that the priest might 468  
have been suborned by wily  
Acastus? He could be a sham,  
disguised in the garb of a priest.

*[Oedipus]*

No, never 471



Scene 4: *Oedipus's Suspicion of Acastus's Plot*

occurred such a suspicion  
in my mind until I learnt from  
this court that Apollo had never condemned  
Oedipus!

474

*[Persephone to all Judges]*

I propose  
that we summon Acastus of  
Corinth to testify on this crucial matter.

477

*[All Judges]*

Yes, we must.

*[Second Judge]*

I will go  
to find Acastus in our vast  
realm of the dead and bring him to testify  
what he knew and did about  
the fate of Oedipus.

480

*{Second Judge leaves with his attendants.  
The end of Scene #4.}*

## Scene 5

### *Acastus's Confession of his Hoax*

Acastus's ghost is summoned to testify at the Court. Apollo comes from Olympus to Hades to witness the trial of Oedipus. Acastus confesses that he played a subtle farce to save himself from political troubles with King Polybus; Acastus disguised himself as a priest at Delphi and proclaimed to Oedipus that he had been doomed to kill his father and mate with his own mother on his father's bed. When Oedipus heard such an awful hoax, he was shocked in panic dismay and fled from Corinth as a self-exile.

Scene 5: *Acastus's Confession of his Hoax*

*{Second Judge enters the court with Acastus.  
Oedipus is absent from the court.}*

*[Persephone to Acastus]*

Who were you,  
and what did you do while you lived on earth? 483

*[Acastus]*

My name is Acastus:  
I was the king of Corinth that  
is now ruled by my son, Abas.

*[Persephone]*

Did you  
inherit the throne from  
your father? 486

*[Acastus]*

No. When the previous  
king, Polybus, died without leaving any heir, 489

Scene 5: *Acastus's Confession of his Hoax*

the Corinthians acclaimed  
me to be their new king.

*[Sixth Judge]*

Had Polybus  
never have a son to succeed his throne?

492

*[Acastus]*

Yes, once he had an adopted  
son, called Oedipus.

*[Fifth Judge]*

What did happen  
to his adopted son?

*[Acastus]*

He was banished for life.

495

Scene 5: *Acastus's Confession of his Hoax*

*[Fourth Judge]*

Did Polybus banish  
Oedipus, his sole heir?

*[Acastus]*

Yes, he did.

*[Third Judge]*

Why did Polybus decide to do such  
an unusual thing? Was he  
compelled to do it, or freely?

498

*[Acastus]*

He was compelled by an oracle of  
Apollo.

501

*[Second Judge]*

Was the oracle  
kept in secret by Polybus,  
or was it disclosed openly to the public?

504

Scene 5: *Acastus's Confession of his Hoax*

*[Acastus]*

All Corinthians leant it.

*[First Judge]*

Then tell us what the oracle said.

*[Acastus]*

It presaged that Oedipus should kill his  
father, and mate with his  
mother on his father's bed.

507

*[Persephone]*

Who did  
utter such ghastly awful prophecies?

510

*[Acastus]*

It was the Delphic priest  
of Apollo.

Scene 5: *Acastus's Confession of his Hoax*

*{Suddenly lightning and thunders peal, then Apollo enters in disguise. Acastus swoons in shock.}*

*[Persephone]*

Hail Apollo,  
the god of divine prophecy! Welcome 513  
to our court. May we learn  
what an urgent matter brought you  
down here?

*[Apollo]*

Cordial greetings to you, wise Queen 516  
Persephone! I heard that  
evil cunning mortals had forged  
absurd prophecies as if they came from me, 519  
and slyly abused them  
to terrify their ignorant  
hapless victims. I request that you grant 522  
me to observe your trial  
on the bizarre case of Oedipus.  
As my prophecy was falsely implicated, 525

Scene 5: *Acastus's Confession of his Hoax*

I volunteer to testify  
at your court as a trusty witness.

*[Persephone]*

Thank you, Apollo, for your gracious aid.  
We shall find out the truth.

528

*{Apollo sits next to the Sixth Judge.}*

*[Persephone to her attendants.]*

Bring in the defendant.

*{Blind Oedipus enters guided by the attendants.  
Acastus recovers his sense and looks at Oedipus.}*

*[Persephone]*

Do you  
recognize who this man was, Acastus?

531

*[Acastus]*



Scene 5: *Acastus's Confession of his Hoax*

No, I cannot make out  
such a dreadfully disfigured man.

*[Persephone to Oedipus]*

Reveal yourself to Acastus of Corinth. 534

*[Oedipus]*

What? Is Acastus here?  
Look at me, the ghastly husk of  
Oedipus—once a proud prince of Corinth! 537

But he was utterly  
ruined by the dreadful oracle of  
Apollo that your son, Abas, lured him 540  
to hear at Delphi.

*[Acastus trembling in horror]*

What?  
Ah, Zeus! How much you have suffered,  
wretched piteous Oedipus!

Scene 5: *Acastus's Confession of his Hoax*

*[Persephone]*

Now, tell us	543
the truth, Acastus. Did you	
suborn the priest of Apollo	
at Delphi to utter the sham, gruesome	546
prophecies that Oedipus	
had been condemned to kill	
his father, and to mate with his mother?	549

*[Acastus in hesitation]*

It was not meant to be	
an oracle of Apollo,	
but a subtle farce that I played, disguised	552
as if I were a priest	
at Delphi.	

*[Oedipus]*

What? Ah cunning cruel	
Acastus, what a vile devil had you played	555
on me with such a sly,	
fatal hoax!	

Scene 5: *Acastus's Confession of his Hoax*

*[Persephone]*

Why did you conspire,  
Acastus, the farce that brought to Oedipus 558  
such horrible tragedies?

*[Acastus]*

Young Oedipus was a clever,  
astute, ambitious prince too proud of himself. 561

When I learnt that he was  
a mere foundling, not a real son  
of King Polybus by his queen Merope, 564

I tried to prevent him from  
marrying my daughter, Arete.  
Hence, I disclosed his secret parentage. 567

King Polybus was so enraged  
at me that he threatened to banish  
my whole family. To defend myself 570

I challenged him to consult  
with the Delphic oracle to  
reveal the true parentage of Oedipus. 573

Scene 5: *Acastus's Confession of his Hoax*

*[Apollo in disguise]*

What did Polybus and you  
hear at Delphi?

*[Acastus]*

Polybus refused  
to accept my challenge, proclaiming that 576  
we must not bother holy  
gods with our inane paltry affairs.  
But his fierce anger at me did not abate. 579  
I realized that I had  
no other choice but vilify  
Oedipus to save my family from 582  
the dire ire of Polybus.  
For many dreadful days and sleepless  
nights, I brooded over endless tracks of wandering 585  
thoughts. At last, the naïve plot  
of the faked oracle dawned in my mind.  
My son, Abas, succeeded in provoking 588  
proud and anxious Oedipus  
to join with him to hear my hoax  
oracle at the Delphic shrine.

Scene 5: *Acastus's Confession of his Hoax*

*[Apollo in disguise]*

I wonder  
how your hoax have worked  
so well.

*[Acastus]*

Somehow, it worked very  
effectively beyond what I dreamt of—  
indeed, too well as I

regretted very much, later; first, it made  
Oedipus flee from Corinth as a self-exile;

Second, both Polybus  
and Merope were genuinely  
thankful to me that the presumed oracle  
saved his life and her virtue.

They admitted that Oedipus was  
a foundling and he might bring grave harm and  
shame to them as I foresaw.

They proclaimed a life-long exile  
for Oedipus; they also banished the shepherd  
who had brought them the cursed

foundling. All Corinthians respected  
me as the wise courageous man who could

Scene 5: *Acastus's Confession of his Hoax*

foresee the unseen to guard  
their state.

*[Oedipus]*

Now I see that, o gods,  
it was not your doing, but my dire fate 612  
has been contrived by men,  
including myself—so stupid,  
credulous, and blinded in my fatal pride! 615  
All have come to light, too true  
for me to see them. I have been  
a wild child of chance, a fleeting brother 618  
of the changing moon; I  
wax, and I wane with it. I do not  
blame you, sly Acastus; you were far more 621  
superior than I was  
in plotting cunningly to trap  
one's foes. Now, tell me one more thing: how is 624  
Arete whom I love?

*[Acastus]*

Scene 5: *Acastus's Confession of his Hoax*

Forgive me, Oedipus! I repent  
my horrible misdeeds inflicted on you. 627  
I feel your pangs of pains  
and throes of dire agonies. Soon after  
you were banished from Corinth, my distraught 630  
daughter in utter despair  
suddenly disappeared from us,  
never to be found alive or dead—the dire 633  
terrible retribution  
of my wily plot to my family.  
Soon my wretched wife died of grief. I lost all 636  
my joy and verve of living.

*[Persephone]*

What intriguing tragic comedies  
you cunning mortals have played out to each 639  
other in the magic names  
of your bogus gods! Didn't you claim,  
Oedipus, that you had been somehow doomed 642  
to kill your father  
even before you were conceived  
in your mother's womb?

Scene 5: *Acastus's Confession of his Hoax*

*[Oedipus]*

Yes, I did.

*[Persephone]*

	How do you know	645
that it would not turn out to be		
another hoax made up by a wily		
felon far worse than Acastus here?		

*[Oedipus]*

	I learnt	648
it from Jocasta, then		
my Queen. But it is impossible		
for me to know whether her saying is		651
true or not, although I		
have believed in it.		

*[Fourth Judge]*

Tell us what  
Jocasta said to you.



Scene 5: *Acastus's Confession of his Hoax*

[Oedipus]

An oracle came	654
to Laius—she would not say	
from the god Apollo himself	
but from his ministers at Delphi: it	657
proclaimed that it would be	
the fate of Laius to be killed	
by his son to be born of Jocasta.	660
In fear of such an awful	
oracle, when their son was born,	
Laius fastened ankles of the three-day	663
old babe and had him cast	
out by his thrall to let him die	
in the wilderness of Mount Cithaeron.	666

[*Third Judge*]

Was it you, Oedipus,	
who suffered such a cruel crime—	
the very victim of Laius's infanticide?	669

Scene 5: *Acastus's Confession of his Hoax*

*[Oedipus]*

Yes. I was that very infant.

*[Second Judge]*

If so, how did you survive it?

*[Oedipus]*

Out of pity, the thrall of King Laius	672
saved the infant in bold	
disobedience to his master.	
How I wish that I had perished before	675
he gave me to the shepherd	
from Corinth rather than to become	
a foundling-prince of King Polybus, and	678
then a killer of his real	
father unknown to me!	

*[Persephone to all judges]*

We must	
summon Laius to testify here, right now.	681

Scene 5: *Acastus's Confession of his Hoax*

[All judges]

Yes, we must interrogate  
Laius about this gruesome matter.

*[Apollo in disguise]*

I also want to hear what Laius would dare  
to claim about the absurd  
inane fib of the faked prophecy, alleged  
to Apollo. 684

*[Third Judge]*

I will go to capture Laius  
of Thebes and bring him here. 687  
I know quite well who he was and  
what he had done while he was alive in Thebes. 690

*{Third Judge leaves the court with his attendants.  
The court adjourns. The end of Scene #5. }*

## Scene 6

### *Laius's Confession of his Infanticide*

Laius's ghost is summoned. He encounters the disfigured Oedipus and recognizes him as the youth who killed him at Phocis on his way to Delphi, but he denies resolutely that Oedipus was his infant son who had survived somehow his attempt of cruel infanticide.

Scene 6: *Laius's Confession of his Infanticide*

*{Laius is led in by Third Judge. The court resumes  
in the absence of Oedipus.}*

*[Persephone to Laius]*

Speak to us who you were,  
and what you had done while you lived  
on the green earth.

*[Laius]*

I am Laius, once a king  
of the seven gated mighty Thebes.  
I was the son of Labdacus,  
the son of Polydore, the son of Cademus,  
and the son of Agenor.

693

696

*[Persephone]*

I see. Then what was the name of  
your son?

Scene 6: *Laius's Confession of his Infanticide*

*[Laius]*

I had no son.

*[Persephone]*

Did your queen  
Jocasta bear a son  
by you, or not?

699

*[Laius]*

Once she bore a son  
but he died in his infancy.

*[Persephone to the attendants]*

Bring in  
the defendant and witness.

702

*{Acastus leads Oedipus in.}*

Scene 6: *Laius's Confession of his Infanticide*

*[Persephone]*

Laius, do you recognize this man?

*[Laius]*

By Zeus, I do not know who this poor  
ghastly looking ghost was. 705

*[Persephone]*

Do you insist, Oedipus, that  
you are the very son of King Laius and  
Queen Jocasta of Thebes? 708

*[Oedipus]*

Yes, I do.

*{Oedipus kneels in front of Laius as a suppliant.}*

O great King Laius,  
my real father unknown to me. Forgive 711

me for my terrible  
misdeed, unwittingly inflicted  
upon you at the fatal spot in Phocis.

*[Laius]*

[*Oedipus*]

717

*[Laius]*

[*Oedipus*]

720



Scene 6: *Laius's Confession of his Infanticide*

*[Laius]*

Stop prattling  
such inane nonsense!

*[Oedipus]*

Did you ever  
have a son by your queen Jocasta?

723

*[Laius]*

Why do you ask it? No—  
except an infant who lived for  
only three days.

*[Oedipus]*

How did the infant die?

726

*[Laius]*

Why do you keep on asking  
questions on such private matters?

Scene 6: *Laius's Confession of his Infanticide*

*[Oedipus]*

To prove that I was the very child you cast  
away to die. 729

*[Laius]*

No! It cannot  
be! Utterly impossible!

*[Oedipus]*

Did you not give away your son to your thrall 732  
to be thrown in the wild  
of Mount Cithaeron—its both ankles  
pierced and pinned together to be an easy 735  
prey for wild beasts—if it  
had not already died of cold and  
starvation?

*[Laius]*

Ah Zeus! How did you survive 738

Scene 6: *Laius's Confession of his Infanticide*

your cursed doom? How did you  
learn my awful misdeed, Oedipus?

*[Persephone]*

We need concrete witnesses to testify 741  
for this intriguing case.  
Laius, go and find your thrall who  
took the babe from you but rescued him 744  
from your terrible plot  
of infanticide.

*[Third Judge]*

We must find  
the thrall and bring him here to assist us 747  
in bringing forth light to  
these gruesome matters.

*{Third Judge leaves with Laius and his attendants.  
The end of Scene #6.}*

## Scene 7

### *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

The ghost of the thrall of Laius is summoned. He admits that King Laius gave him an infant and bade him discard it in the wilderness of Mount Cithaeron. But his conscience compelled him to disobey such a cruel command. Hence, the thrall gave the infant to a fellow shepherd from Corinth. King Polybus took the child from his shepherd and reared him as his son. Laius confesses that he attempted the cruel infanticide because he was so afraid of the awful curse of Pelops that his son to be born would kill him.

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

*{Third Judge returns to the court with Laius and his thrall.}*

*[Persephone]*

Is this your thrall  
who saved Oedipus from your premeditated  
infanticide, Laius? 750

*[Laius]*

Yes, he was our trusted thrall, not bought  
but bred in our household.

*[Persephone to the thrall]*

Why did you disobey  
your master's stern behest? 753

*[Thrall]*

I obeyed my conscience, crying  
out pity for the helplessly crying baby. 756

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

I could not leave him crying  
in the harsh wilderness of Mount  
Cithaeron.

*[Laius]*

Then what did you do with him?

759

*[Thrall]*

I gave him to a shepherd  
from Corinth, begging him to rear  
the child as his foster son for god's sake.

762

*[Acastus]*

I know the shepherd of King  
Polybus; he claimed that he saved  
the infant from death in Mount Cithaeron,  
freeing the pins that riveted  
his feet and thus named him "*Oedipus*."  
Polybus and Merope took the child from

765

768

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

their shepherd and reared him  
as if he were their genuine offspring.  
Reveal your ankles, Oedipus, for everyone  
to see what I have said. 771

*{Oedipus reveals the old scars of his pierced ankles.}*

*[Oedipus]*

Look at these scars, my sire Laius,  
of my riveted ankles—sad proof that I was  
the very child so condemned! 774

*[Laius]*

Ah me! It was Zeus who brought  
such cursed fates upon us. Now I see how  
you had survived my vile,  
cowardly misdeed, and grew up  
to slay me as foretold by the dreadful  
prophecy. And yet how  
happy I am that the gods saved  
my only son from my horrid cruelty. 777  
780  
783

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

My dear son, Oedipus,  
forgive me, your selfish base father.  
Allow me to embrace you in heartfelt love.

786

*{Laius and Oedipus embrace each other.}*

*[Persephone]*

Why did you intend to  
kill your innocent and helpless  
infant son, Laius? How do you dare to  
blame Zeus for your cruel  
infanticide?

789

*[Laius]*

An oracle  
forewarned me that my son to be born would  
kill me someday, if he  
was allowed to grow up.

792

*[Apollo in disguise]*



Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

What? How  
did you obtain such an absurd oracle? 795  
Do you claim that you heard  
it from Apollo himself or his priests?

*[Laius]*

No. The dire curse of Pelops threatened me 798  
in my dreadful dreams for  
countless nights.

*[Apollo in disguise]*

If so, then it was  
merely your own nightmares, not a divine 801  
oracle, at all.

*[Laius]*

No,  
it did not come from Apollo.

*[Oedipus to Laius]*

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

But I heard from Jocasta that the awful  
oracle came to you  
from the ministers of Apollo  
at Delphi. Did she know that it was just  
what you had imagined in  
your dreams?

*[Laius]*

Out of necessity,  
I misled Jocasta to yield her baby  
for a quick sacrifice  
lest my awful doom is fulfilled.

*[Acastus]*

By Zeus, your dream of hoax-oracle,  
King Laius, surpassed by far  
my plain play of farce-oracle!

*[Persephone]*

Confess, Laius, the true causes of your fierce  
lunatic fear of your  
own son!

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

*[Laius]*

It was the dreadful curse  
of Pelops upon me due to the mis- 819  
construed abduction of  
his beloved son, Chrysippus, by me.

*[Persephone]*

Confess all what you did to Chrysippus: 822  
Why Pelops cursed you; and  
why you feared it so much.

*[Laius]*

Since my sire  
died when I was young, Lycus raised me as 825  
my regent. Just before  
Amphion and Zethus attacked Thebes,  
killed Lycus, and usurped the throne, I was 828  
entrusted to king Pelops  
of Elis in Peloponnesus  
as my trusty protector. For several years 831

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

I grew up in his great  
palace as a welcomed guest: he  
taught me important skills, best of all, how 834  
to drive fast war-chariots.  
As I became an expert, he  
entrusted his young son, Chrysippus, to learn 837  
charioting and other  
sports under my guidance for five years.  
One day, I led Chrysippus to compete 840  
at the famed Nemean games.  
He won the top championship.  
While we celebrated the victory, a herald 843  
from Thebes came to me; he  
informed that I had been proclaimed  
as their rightful new king since both Amphion 846  
and Zethus perished. I  
returned to Thebes immediately,  
taking Chrysippus with me. King Pelops 849  
sent me his herald that  
Chrysippus should come back to him  
right away; but I wanted him to stay with me 852  
in Thebes as I had been  
deeply attached to him; I offered  
Chrysippus to share the throne of Thebes as 855

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

my co-ruler. Pelops  
misconstrued my brotherly love  
of Chrysippus as immoral abduction: 858  
He dispatched his strong troops,  
commanded by his two sons, Atreus  
and Thyestes, to attack me to surrender 861  
Chrysippus. But I was  
resolutely determined to  
ignore such a threat and to defend Thebes. 864  
For days and nights, I worked  
hard to fortify our ramparts,  
posting our brave, loyal soldiers to guard 867  
the adamant seven gates.  
When our preparation for war  
was completed, a guard rushed to report that 870  
Chrysippus had driven  
out his chariot to join with his  
half-brothers. I climbed up our watch-tower 873  
and saw the troops sent by  
Pelops retreating afar; I bade  
heartfelt farewell to Chrysippus with best wishes. 876  
Soon I married Jocasta,  
the graceful daughter of noble  
Menoceus, blooming in her beautiful youth. 879

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

*[Persephone]*

If Chrysippus returned  
safely to Pelops, why did he  
spell the curse on you and why did you fear it? 882

*[Laius]*

Shortly after Chrysippus  
left Thebes, he appeared in my dream  
as a sad ghost lamenting his terrible 885  
murder. The next morning  
a herald from Pelops came to me;  
He proclaimed that Chrysippus had killed himself. 888  
Much worse, Pelops accused  
me for his death. According to  
Atreus and Thyestes, they interrogated 891  
Chrysippus why he had not  
returned to Elis immediately  
after his victory at the Nemean games; 894  
Chrysippus replied that  
Laius had abducted him to Thebes,  
and abused him as his lover; then, in shame, 897  
Chrysippus killed himself.

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

They brought back his corpse to Pelops  
for a solemn funeral in Elis. 900

Pelops invoked Zeus  
to punish me for the alleged  
crime. In shock, sorrow, and fear, I swooned. 903

One day, a trusty servant  
of my queen Jocasta told me  
that she happened to see how Chrysippus  
was actually murdered 906  
by Atreus and Thyestes in  
the thick forest not far from our rampart. 909

Creon, the wise brother  
of my queen, advised me that I  
should go to Delphi and plead Apollo 912  
to reveal the true cause  
of Chrysippus's death to Pelops  
so that he would revoke his curse upon me. 915

*[Apollo in disguise]*

Did you see Apollo?  
If so, what did he say to you?

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

*[Laius]*

Not Apollo himself—how could a man	918
really see the god—but	
I met with his holy priestess	
at the Delphic shrine. I asked her whether	921
I should go, or not, to see	
King Pelops and try to persuade	
him that Chrysippus was murdered by his	924
half-brothers, Atreus	
and Thyestes. The priestess	
sternly rebuked me that my accusation	927
against the famed sons of Pelops	
was incredible because I had not	
witnessed it myself, at all; servants tended	930
to make up absurd fibs	
to relieve their masters from distress.	
Most of all, my blame of his sons would	933
enrage Pelops to punish	
me with an immediate death.	
Then I asked the prudent priestess whether	936
she would appeal for me	
to Apollo to reveal the truth	
to Pelops as a divine oracle.	939



Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

Sternly, she scolded me that  
I was a witless vile rascal;  
While I had failed in convincing her, I 942  
still tried to bribe her to  
make such an absurd appeal  
to Apollo. She heard that Pelops had 945  
invoked Zeus to fulfill  
his curse that Laius should be killed  
by his son, yet to be born. Her best advice 948  
for me, she said, was not  
to beget any son. Since that time,  
the awful curse of Pelops resounded in me 951  
as if it were the very curse  
of Zeus, tormenting my heart.

*[Persephone]*

Do you insist that Pelops spelled wrong curse 954  
upon you, Laius, and thus  
that your attempted infanticide  
of your son should be deemed as just? 957

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

[Laius]

No! I was so selfish,  
cowardly, and stupid. Punish me  
for my horrible crime. The only thing I 960  
would like to plead you is  
that my son is truly innocent  
of patricide: never did he intended it 963  
nor was he aware of who  
I was to him in dark accidents  
of our tumultuous life. He was a hapless 966  
victim of my cursed fate.  
I beseech you to absolve my son,  
Oedipus, from all his unwitting sins. 969

[*Persephone*]

Do you know any witness  
who saw how it actually  
happened that Oedipus killed you?

[*Thrall*]

I saw it. 972

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

*[Persephone]*

Good! Tell us exactly  
what you witnessed.

*[Thrall]*

I followed King Laius on his way to visit Delphi.	975
When our retinue of five men drew near the triple-branching roads at Phocis, we met a young man distraught in anguishes. Our herald and two strong attendants jostled the young man from the narrow pass. In rage, he struck down all three with his walking stick. When the youth passed nearby, King Laius hit him from his car.	978 981 984
But deftly, he flung Laius out of the car and laid him dead in one stroke. I fled from the deadly spot for my dear life in panic.	987

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

*[Persephone]*

Do you agree, Laius, with what  
your thrall spoke?

*[Laius]*

Yes, that was how the accident 990  
happened. I affirm that  
the young man acted deftly in proper  
self-defense: I paid my dues, deserving 993  
such an ignoble death.

*[Persephone]*

What did you plan to do in Delphi?

*[Laius]*

I wished to consult with the oracle, 996  
hoping to learn how to  
beget my heir as we remained  
childless since I had discarded our first baby. 999

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

*[Sixth Judge]*

Did you see any omen  
in your dream, or did any seer warn  
you of your impending calamity  
on your way to Delphi?

1002

*[Laius]*

No, not at all. Our famed seer,  
Tiresias, strongly advised me to visit  
the Delphic shrine with rich  
gifts and implore Apollo for  
his merciful help.

1005

*[First Judge]*

How did the people  
of Thebes learn the death of  
their king at such a remote place?

1008

*[Thrall]*

I brought the terrible news back to Thebes.

1011

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

*[Laius]*

How did the Thebans pursue  
to capture and punish the killer  
of their king?

*[Thrall]*

Nothing they tried to find out  
the killer at that time.

1014

*[Laius]*

Nothing? No Thebans minded my death?  
Where were Jocasta, Creon, and Tiresias?

1017

*[Thrall]*

I was a lowly thrall  
who knew nothing about what went  
with the vital secret affairs of the state.

1020

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

*[Laius]*

I entreat you, mighty goddess  
Persephone, to summon Creon  
and Tiresias to testify how they had  
dealt with the murder  
of their king.

1023

*[First Judge]*

I object to the plea  
as it may distract us from focusing  
on Oedipus's trial.

1026

*[Fifth Judge to Oedipus]*

When and how did you find out that  
you were the very killer of King Laius?

1029

*[Oedipus]*

Twelve years after I took up  
the helm of our ship of state Thebes,  
formidable pestilences struck our ship,

1032

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

forlorn helplessly, drenched in  
weltering surges of blood. Dire blight ruined  
our harvest, flocks, and herds; our women wailed 1035  
in travail of miscarriage.  
All my subjects entreated me to  
find apt remedy to cure them from deadly 1038  
diseases, not deeming me  
as a new divinity but  
the first of men in the common accidents 1041  
of our uncertain life.  
Threading an endless maze of weary  
thoughts in anguish and tears, I came upon 1044  
a clue of hope: to ask  
Apollo how I might save Thebes  
by act or word. On my behalf, Creon 1047  
consulted with the Delphic  
oracle: it said that we must find  
and punish the killer of Laius to save 1050  
Thebes from the deadly blight.  
Sternly, I proclaimed that I should  
be the blood-avenger of King Laius, 1053  
and condemned his unknown  
killer with utmost relentless curses.  
In spite of my stern behest, nobody came 1056



Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

up with any clue how to  
find the killer of Laius. As  
Thebans suggested that their seer, Tiresias, 1059  
might help me discover  
the concealed criminal, humbly I  
beseeched him to reveal the accursed killer, 1062  
and save us from the dire  
defilement of the blood-shed.

*[Fourth Judge]*

What did  
Tiresias say to you, bold Oedipus? 1065

*[Oedipus]*

At first, he refused to speak  
with me, lamenting "*Alas, what  
misery to be wise, when wisdom profits* 1068  
*nothing!*" His obstinate  
withholding of the crucial knowledge  
despite of my earnest supplications 1071

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

to him enraged me; I charged  
that he must be the schemer of  
the plot to kill Laius, if not the assassin. 1074

Then, in wrath, Tiresias  
retaliated me: "*You are the very  
murderer of the man whose murderer  
you are pursuing, now:  
With your bright sight, you are blind to  
your corrupted life: who your real parents are;  
whom you live with. All  
unknowing, you are the bane of  
your own flesh and blood, the dead in the Hades  
and the living on earth.  
The double lash of your mother's and  
your father's curses will thrash you, Oedipus,  
from this land, tramping you  
down in terror, utter darkness  
shrouding your eyes that can see the light now.*" 1089

*Your baneful weird is not  
to fall by me. I leave to Apollo,  
what concerns the god!"* Such horrible stern 1092  
indictment of me by  
Tiresias terrified me like  
a death blow.

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

*[Third Judge]*

You had been a fierce hunter 1095  
who pursued resolutely  
to hunt down yourself as your own  
victim. But who did prove your misdeed with 1098  
concrete evidences?

*[Oedipus]*

I did.

*[Second Judge]*

How could you do that, Oedipus?

*[Oedipus]*

In spite of Jocasta's stern objections 1101  
I summoned this thrall to  
testify on the crucial matters:  
He proved himself not only the sole witness 1104  
of Laius's death but also  
the saviour of Laius's infant son,  
handed to him to be discarded in the wild 1107

Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall*

of Mount Cithaeron. Thus  
I realized who I was in truth,  
at last; and how the hoax-prophecies, made 1110  
up by the sly faked priest  
of Apollo had been fulfilled,  
all by my own wretched self!

*[Apollo in disguise]*

How fascinating 1113  
to hear what you confess,  
Oedipus! May I request that  
Tiresias be summoned here to testify 1116  
how he could attribute  
the hoax-prophecies of Acastus  
to Apollo?

*[Persephone]*

Yes, I also think that 1119  
Tiresias should help us  
unravel the intricate case  
of Oedipus.

**Scene 7: *Testimony by Laius's Thrall***

*[All Judges]*

We agree. Let us summon him.

1122

*[Fifth Judge]*

I know of the proud blind  
seer, Tiresias; I will go  
to find and bring him here to reveal  
his mystic weird art  
of bewildering divination.

1125

*{Fifth Judge exits with his attendants.  
The end of Scene # 7}*

## Scene 8

### *Tiresias's Boast of his Divination*

Tiresias's ghost is summoned. He brags that he was a wise seer who foresaw things to come and helped ignorant mortals to avoid misfortunes. Oedipus confutes Tiresias's false claim that he predicted crucial events before they occurred. His pretence of foreseeing was based on what he gathered from others who witnessed what had already happened.

**Scene 8: Tiresias's Boast of his Divination**

*{The court resumes its session. Fifth Judge brings in Tiresias.}*

*[Persephone]*

Tell us who you were and what you did while  
you lived on earth. 1128

*[Tiresias]*

I am  
Tiresias, the world-renown seer  
of Thebes. I served Apollo in conveying  
his divine prophecies 1131  
to the ignorant, helpless mortals.

*[Persephone]*

Do you remember what happened to Laius,  
your king of Thebes and his  
unknown son, Oedipus? 1134

Scene 8: *Tiresias's Boast of his Divination*

*[Tiresias]*

Yes, I do  
remember their terrible tragedies!

1137

*[Persephone]*

Then you know that Oedipus  
killed his father, Laius.

*[Tiresias]*

Of course!  
I had foreseen the patricide long ahead  
it actually occurred  
at the fatal spot where three roads  
met in Phocis.

1140

*[Apollo in disguise]*

How could you foresee it?

1143

*[Tiresias]*



Scene 8: *Tiresias's Boast of his Divination*

I have to refrain from  
revealing the secret mystery  
of the sacred art of divination. 1146

*[Apollo in disguise]*

Well, then tell us what you  
foretold of the death of Laius:  
Did you foresee the time and place in which 1149  
Laius was doomed to die?

*[Tiresias]*

No. What I foresaw was who his  
killer should be.

*[Apollo in disguise]*

You mean Oedipus.

*[Tiresias]*

Yes, 1152

Scene 8: *Tiresias's Boast of his Divination*

his unknown son, discarded  
by Laius to the wilderness  
of Mount Cithaeron when he was an infant. 1155

*[Persephone to attendants]*

Bring in the defendant  
and the witnesses.

*{Laius enters guiding blind Oedipus by hand. Acastus follows.}*

*[Tiresias to Laius]*

Ah Apollo,  
what pitiful sights! Are you not King Laius? 1158  
But who is this ghastly  
blind figure you look after with  
such tender care?

*[Laius]*

Welcome, Tiresias! 1161  
Behold this is my son,  
Oedipus. I am glad that you  
have come to this court of the divine judgment 1164

Scene 8: *Tiresias's Boast of his Divination*

to help exonerate him  
from the unwitting patricide.

*[Tiresias]*

I serve only Apollo, not mortal men.

1167

*[First Judge]*

How did you find out that  
Laius had been slain, Tiresias?

*[Tiresias]*

Creon told me that the king was murdered  
by bandits at Phocis.

1170

*[Second Judge]*

What did Creon or the elders  
of Thebes do to find out the killer, arrest,  
and punish the criminal?

1173

Scene 8: *Tiresias's Boast of his Divination*

*[Tiresias]*

They had no clue for any suspect.

*[Third Judge]*

But you, Tiresias, knew that Oedipus  
must be the killer of  
Laius as you have avowed. 1176

*[Tiresias]*

Yes, I  
knew it.

*[Fourth Judge]*

Did you tell Creon or the elders  
of Thebes that the killer  
of their king must be the bold young  
man, Oedipus, if your art of divination  
was credible? 1179  
1182

Scene 8: *Tiresias's Boast of his Divination*

*[Tiresias]*

No. I  
did not reveal it to anyone.

*[Laius]*

Why not, Tiresias? Did not Creon or	1185
any elders of Thebes consult	
with you about how they could capture	
and punish the murderer of their king?	1188

*[Tiresias]*

No, they never asked me.	
Soon after your death, the deadly	
riddling Sphinx inflicted horrible havocs	1191
on Thebes; the most urgent	
crucial task for us then was how	
to solve the lethal riddle, imposed by	1194
the sly enchanting monster.	

*[Laius]*

Scene 8: *Tiresias's Boast of his Divination*

How long did it take you to solve  
the riddle?

*[Tiresias]*

While I was struggling to	1197
divine the right answer,	
a young stranger wandered into	
Thebes and solved the riddle ahead of me.	1200

*[Laius]*

Who was that wise young stranger?

*[Tiresias]*

It was Oedipus, your killer!	
He was hailed as the saviour of their state	1203
by all Thebans; they acclaimed	
Oedipus to succeed your throne,	
King Laius.	

*[Fifth Judge]*

*Tragic Comedies of Humans*

At that time, Tiresias, you  
must have already known that  
the bold young stranger, acclaimed as  
your new king, was the son and killer of  
Laius?

1206

1209

*[Tiresias]*

Yes, I knew it.

*[Sixth Judge]*

Did the widowed queen, Jocasta,  
or any other citizens of Thebes consult  
with you, Tiresias,  
about the merit of her second  
marriage to the unknown hero, acclaimed  
as the new king of Thebes?

1212

1215

*[Tiresias]*

No. I heard about it after they  
got married so quickly.

Scene 8: *Tiresias's Boast of his Divination*

*[Laius]*

What? Jocasta  
married our own son? Ah gods,  
forbid such an abhorred vile sin! 1218

*{In shock, Laius swoons.}*

*[Acastus]*

Ah, awful hands of fates! In fact, Oedipus  
mated with his real mother,  
as if he had to fulfill my hoax 1221  
prophecy! I devised it merely to make  
Queen Merope afraid of 1224  
her overly adored foundling son:  
the handsome, clever, and proud Oedipus. 1227

*[Persephone]*

How did it happen, Oedipus,  
that you married Queen Jocasta?



Scene 8: *Tiresias's Boast of his Divination*

*[Oedipus]*

The accursed sinful marriage came with	1230
the throne of Thebes to me:	
Creon proclaimed to me that it was	
their proper custom for a new foreign	1233
bachelor successor	
to the throne to wed the widowed queen	
as co-rulers of Thebes. Such sudden drastic	1236
changes in my fortune from	
Apollo's awful condemnation	
at Delphi to the sheer exultation	1239
of the astonishing	
acclamation as a new king	
of the great Thebes overwhelmed me in wonder.	1242
I realized that I was	
the child of pure chance that had ruled	
my life; I could not foresee a day ahead,	1245
struggling at random	
in the dark to face as best as	
I could see every trial of life as it	1248
happened. I gave up any	
hope for help from the gods. I solved	
the riddle of Sphinx with my own mental	1251

Scene 8: *Tiresias's Boast of his Divination*

power without a help  
of their vague mystic prophecies.  
And I kept on striving to do all my best 1254  
to meet with whatever  
came by chance in my hard, harsh life.  
Since I took the solemn responsibility 1257  
in steering our ship of state,  
the glorious Thebes, as the first  
of men and also the first in the common 1260  
accidents of life, I  
have wept through countless sleepless nights,  
and struggled to thread intricate, complex mazes 1263  
of inquisitive thoughts  
how to map out the right course for Thebes.  
The gracious devotion and love of Queen 1266  
Jocasta to me with  
her wise prudence and encouragement  
nurtured and uplifted me to carry out 1269  
my task with confidence.

*[Fourth Judge]*

Before you decided to marry  
Queen Jocasta, had you seen any sign of 1272

Scene 8: *Tiresias's Boast of his Divination*

uneasy premonition?  
You knew that she was much older  
than you were about the age of your mother. 1275

*[Oedipus]*

No premonition, at all!  
Queen Jocasta looked much younger  
and graceful than Queen Merope who, I 1278  
believed, was my real mother.  
It was impossible for me to  
suspect that Jocasta could be my mother; 1281  
Even now, it seems to me  
a false, misleading, and terrible  
nightmare, conjured up by my sick brain! 1284

*[Sixth Judge]*

Did you beget any child?

*[Oedipus]*

Yes. We had two brave sons and two  
lovely devoted daughters.

Scene 8: *Tiresias's Boast of his Divination*

*[Fourth Judge]*

What? Did Jocasta 1287  
give birth to four children  
after she married you?

*[Oedipus]*

Yes, she was  
their mother.

*[Fourth Judge]*

How strange it seems! She had been 1290  
barren for more than twenty  
years with Laius. But somehow, she  
became so fertile after she mated with 1293  
her own son? I have many  
questions to ask this mysterious  
woman, Jocasta. If you all agree that 1296  
we should summon her here,  
I will go to find Queen Jocasta,  
and bring her here to unravel her dark 1299  
womanly mysteries.

**Scene 8: *Tiresias's Boast of his Divination***

*[Persephone]*

It is, indeed, very strange. We must  
summon her to testify to us what she  
knew and did about Oedipus.

1302

*[All Judges]*

Yes, we all agree absolutely.  
She may reveal to us crucial secrets.

1305

*{Fourth Judge exits with her attendants.  
The end of Scene #8.}*

## Scene 9

### *Jocasta's Testimony*

Jocasta's ghost is summoned. She reveals her stunning secrets: the birth-father of Oedipus is not Laius but Chrysippus, the son of Pelops. She fell deeply in love with the handsome Chrysippus while he was detained by Laius in Thebes after winning the chariot race at the Nemean Games. When King Pelops sent his army, led by Atreus and Thyestes, Chrysippus's two half-brothers, she attempted to elope with Chrysippus, waiting for him in the woods. When Chrysippus came to the hiding place, Atreus and Thyestes murdered Chrysippus and pretended that he had committed suicide for shameful affairs with Laius. Enraged Pelops vented an awful curse on Laius that he was doomed to be killed by his own son.

**Scene 9: Jocasta's Testimony**

*{The court resumes its session. Jocasta is led in by Fourth Judge.}*

*[Persephone]*

Who were you and what did  
you do, while you lived on earth?

*[Jocasta]*

My name is Jocasta. I was a queen  
of Thebes.

1308

*[Persephone]*

Who were your consorts?

*[Jocasta]*

King Laius was my first husband.  
After his accidental death, I was wedded

1311

Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

to his successor, King  
Oedipus.

*[Persephone]*

Was he not the son  
of Laius?

*[Jocasta]*

I confess that Oedipus 1314  
was my own son to whom  
it happened that I was married  
unwittingly as a favour of our state 1317  
to the unknown hero  
who had saved Thebes from the calamity.

*[Persephone to attendants]*

Bring in the defendant and all witnesses. 1320

*{Laius enters, leading blind Oedipus by hand.  
Acastus, Tiresias, and the thrall of Laius follow.  
Laius recognizes Jocasta.}*



Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

*[Laius]*

Jocasta, my dear Queen,  
Behold our long-lost son; gods saved  
him from the wilderness of Mount Cithaeron! 1323

*[Jocasta]*

Ah, what a heartbreaking  
piteous sight—my beloved son,  
Oedipus, what terrible woes you have 1326  
suffered in the throes of agony!  
My Lord, Laius, pity on me,  
your hapless wife and his accursed mother 1329  
of shame and dire anguish.

*{Jocasta embraces Oedipus and Laius.}*

*[Oedipus]*

O my dear gracious mother, how  
good to hear your gentle, tender voice again: 1332

Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

You always comfort me  
to overcome bitter acute pangs  
of our horrible miseries and dire throes  
of our terrible agonies. 1335

*[Persephone]*

Jocasta, have you ever heard  
any prophecy or seen a sign that warned  
you of your incestuous  
second marriage? 1338

*[Jocasta]*

No, not at all!  
I have neither consulted for an oracle  
nor trusted the dubious  
art of divination in my life. 1341

*[Tiresias]*

Ah bold woman, Jocasta! Your audacious  
blasphemy was the very cause  
of your undoing in vile shame. 1344

Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

*[Jocasta]*

What did you dare to say, Tiresias? Now, 1347  
confess the truth to us:  
Did you know, or not, the brave wise  
stranger who had solved the riddle of Sphinx 1350  
and had saved Thebes from her  
lethal pestilence, and hence he  
was acclaimed as our new king, Oedipus— 1353  
that he was the very man  
who had undone Laius at Phocis  
in their inadvertent brawl?

*[Tiresias]*

I will not speak: 1356  
I serve only Apollo, not  
woman, nor man.

*[Thrall]*

May a thrall speak  
on this matter?

Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

*[Persephone]*

Certainly, if you speak  
the truth. 1359

*[Thrall]*

When I saw the new  
young king, I recognized that he  
was the very man who had killed our old king, 1362  
Laius, at Phocis about two  
months ago.

*[Laius]*

Did you report to Creon  
or other Thebans about the crucial fact? 1365

*[Thrall]*

No. In fear and anguish,  
I confessed it to our seer  
in a private meeting.

*Scene 9: Jocasta's Testimony*

*[First Judge]*

What did the seer  
say to you after he  
had heard such a shocking grave news? 1368

*[Thrall]*

He told me that those things came out exactly  
as he had already foreseen  
in his divination; sternly, he  
warned me not to tell anyone about it  
as the Thebans would stone  
me to death in anger if they heard  
what I claimed to be true. Hence, I begged  
Queen Jocasta to send me  
to a remote field far from the sight  
of our new king. 1371  
1374  
1377

*[Second Judge]*

Who was that sly seer? 1380

Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

*[Thrall]*

Tiresias, right here, was  
that seer!

*[Persephone]*

What? Tiresias,  
do you deny what he has said?

*[Tiresias]*

No. This thrall  
was the sole surviving  
witness of Laius's death.

1383

*[Laius]*

Ah, wily  
traitor, Tiresias, you evil, vile villain!

1386

Why did you conceal such  
a grave crucial matter, betraying  
the safety of our State? How highly had

1389

*Scene 9: Jocasta's Testimony*

we honoured you as our  
divine seer who knew the secrets  
of the heaven and earth hidden to us? 1392

*[Tiresias]*

May peace be with you, King  
Laius! Do you know how terrible  
knowledge is when it brings no profit but 1395  
harm to the man who knows it?

*[Laius]*

You, sly shameless villain! You have  
sold sham prophecies for your greedy profits, 1398  
cheating credulous foolish  
people as if you were a trusty  
prophet of Apollo!

*[Jocasta]*

My dear lord, Laius, 1401

*Scene 9: Jocasta's Testimony*

how earnestly did I implore you not to trust cunning seers and their glib dubious prophecies!	1404
What dreadful tragedies we have suffered by them; you wanted to kill the innocent, helpless infant son— your only heir—in inane fears of the absurd false oracle that threatened you, rejecting earnest pleas of his heartbroken mother.	1407
You drove an iron pin through the tender ankles of the three-day-old helpless baby and cast the child away to starve in the wilds of Mount Cithaeron, cheating yourself to be freed from such a cruel infanticide. If you had ignored such absurd prophecies and had raised the child in our palace with loving cares as King Polybus of Corinth did as his beloved foster son, Oedipus, you would not have been killed in such pettish squabbles at Phocis on your way	1410  1413  1416  1419  1422



*Scene 9: Jocasta's Testimony*

to hear more vain oracles at Delphi  
so ingloriously. 1425

*[Laius]*

Forgive me, Jocasta. I repent  
my foolish follies and cowardly crimes. 1428

*[Tiresias]*

No mortal can defy  
divine prophecies; all of you  
have witnessed that whatever I foretold  
you to happen, all had  
been fulfilled. I am a true prophet  
of Apollo. What I foresee is true, and  
in that lie my divine  
missions and supernal power. 1431  
1434

*[Apollo in disguise]*

What did you foretell as a prophet of  
Apollo? 1437

Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

*[Tiresias]*

The murder  
of Laius by his son and the vile,  
shameful marriage of his widow to her son, 1440  
the killer of her husband!

*[Oedipus]*

To whom did you foretell that such  
ghastly events would take place, Tiresias, 1443  
prior to I happened  
to do such misdeeds utterly  
unwittingly and inadvertently? 1446

*[Tiresias]*

Did I not tell you the truth  
when you summoned me to reveal  
the killer of Laius at the assembly 1449  
of Theban citizens?

Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

*[Oedipus]*

You boasted that you had foretold  
certain events to someone before they  
actually took place. 1452

But you did not foretell me, at all,  
that I would kill my father in the future. 1455

Have you ever foretold  
your king, Laius, that his son will  
kill him in the future, or foretold your queen, 1458

Jocasta, that her son  
will marry his mother someday?

*[Tiresias]*

No, I did not. Such dark matters irked me. 1461

*[Jocasta]*

What? Ah, you monstrous, vile,  
and, sly fiend! Why did you conceal  
that the strange hero who had solved the riddle  
of Sphinx was my own son? 1464

Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

If you had revealed the truth, as any  
human being must do, I would not have suffered 1467  
the abhorred awful shames  
of my ill-fated second marriage  
as a favour to the unknown hero; 1470  
Nor would I hang myself  
to pay for unwitting monstrous  
sins of a good loving mother and wife 1473  
in such dire throes of shame  
and anguish. O Erinyes, goddesses  
of vengeance! I invoke you to avenge me, 1476  
by tormenting vile Tiresias  
in endless pangs of pains and throes  
of agonies!

*[Tiresias]*

My dear Queen Jocasta, you 1479  
have never deigned to see  
me about prophecies. Even if  
I had dared to volunteer to foretell, you 1482  
would have laughed at me,  
as if I were a mad, blind fool.

Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

*[Persephone]*

Do not try to evade the critical point:

1485

When did you, Tiresias,  
hear the strange name, *Oedipus*, and  
from whom for the first time?

*[Tiresias]*

About two months  
before he was hailed as  
our new king.

1488

*[Third Judge]*

Who did tell you what  
about Oedipus.

*[Tiresias]*

An old shepherd of King  
Polybus came to see  
me from Corinth.

1491

*Scene 9: Jocasta's Testimony*

*[Fourth Judge]*

Why did he come?

*[Tiresias]*

He wanted to ask me about his future; he  
had been recently banished  
from Corinth by his king.

1494

*[Fifth Judge]*

Did you  
ask him why?

*[Tiresias]*

He said that it was because of  
the foster son of King  
Polybus, called Oedipus.

1497

*[Sixth Judge]*

What did he tell you about that Oedipus?

1500

Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

*[Tiresias]*

He said that Oedipus  
had been condemned by Apollo  
such that he would kill his father and to  
mate with his queen—his mother. 1503  
Hence, they banished Oedipus from  
Corinth forever.

*[First Judge]*

But why did they banish 1506  
the shepherd, too?

*[Tiresias]*

Because  
he had brought the foundling, infant  
Oedipus, rescued from Mount Cithaeron, 1509  
to the house of Polybus:  
The king and queen raised Oedipus  
as if he were their son and adored him 1512

Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

as their heir to the throne  
till they learnt the awful prophecy  
of Apollo.

*[Oedipus]*

Hence, you have proved yourself, 1515  
Tiresias, that you are not  
a seer of divine prophecy, at all,  
but a false, sly, shameless swindler: 1518

You pretend what you have  
heard from others about things that had  
already occurred as if they were your own 1521  
foreknowledge!

*[Sixth Judge]*

How can you  
prove, Tiresias, that it was your  
foreknowledge imparted to you by Apollo 1524  
as his true prophet, not  
what you inferred from the reports  
by the thrall of Laius and the shepherd 1527



Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

of Polybus about the events  
that had already occurred in the past?

*[Tiresias]*

I will speak no more. Let Apollo speak.

1530

*[Apollo in disguise]*

What do you want Apollo  
speak for you, proud wily seer?

*[Tiresias]*

That Tiresias is the proven true prophet  
of Apollo: I speak

1533

only the will of my master:

I serve neither men nor women but the god.

1536

*[Apollo removing his disguise]*

Is that so? Then do you know  
who I am?

Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

*[Tiresias in awe and shock]*

Who are you? Ah, Ah!  
Apollo, forgive me!

*{Tiresias collapses and becomes crazy, screaming  
in pains and agonies like a mad dog. The attendants  
haul him out to the prison.}*

*[Apollo]*

How well he had played 1539  
such tragic farces to poor,  
credulous, ignorant mortals,  
wearing the fake mask of a sham Apollo! 1542

*[Persephone]*

We will bring dark things to light.

*[Jocasta, kneeling]*

Goddess Persephone, divine judges,  
I have a woman's secret to confess! 1545

*Scene 9: Jocasta's Testimony*

*[Persephone]*

Reveal it, Jocasta.

*[Jocasta]*

The real father of Oedipus  
was not Laius.

*[Laius]*

What, Jocasta? Then who was?

1548

*[Jocasta]*

Chrysippus!

*[Laius]*

Chrysippus?  
Confess your secret intrigues,  
cunning Jocasta!

Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

*[Jocasta]*

Before you proposed 1551  
to my father, Menoeceus,  
for our marriage, I had been deeply  
in love with handsome, charming Chrysippus: 1554  
He solemnly promised  
to take me as his bride to Elis  
whenever he would be free to leave Thebes. 1557  
When King Pelops sent his  
army, led by Chrysippus's two  
half-brothers, Atreus and Thyestes, I dared 1560  
to elope with Chrysippus.

*[Laius]*

What? How did you scheme such a bold act?

*[Jocasta]*

With my motherly nurse, I waited for Chrysippus 1563  
at our usual secret  
meeting place in the deep forest  
outside the rampart. As he had promised, 1566

Scene 9: Jocasta's Testimony

Chrysippus appeared, riding  
on a swift steed, followed by two  
other horsemen. Suddenly one of them 1569  
    speared Chrysippus's horse,  
and he tumbled down in surprise.  
The other man rushed to the injured Chrysippus, 1572  
    seized his sword, and plunged it  
into his pounding heart. "*Well done,*  
*Atreus!*" said one. "*His corpse should prove his* 1575  
    *suicide in shame for Pelops,*  
*Thyestes,*" said the other. They took  
the bleeding body of Chrysippus with them. 1578  
    In shock and agony, I swooned.

[*Laius*]

Ah, miserable Jocasta,  
if you had told me the brutal fact that 1581  
    Chrysippus was murdered  
by vile Atreus and Thyestes,  
I would have certainly informed Pelops 1584  
    of his sons' horrible  
crimes against their half-brother;  
Even if Pelops had not believed what 1587

*Scene 9: Jocasta's Testimony*

I would say, his misconstrued  
curse would not have affected my heart  
so deeply because my conscience would be free. 1590

*[Jocasta]*

Forgive me, my dear lord.  
I was too afraid to confess my sin.

*[Laius]*

How deep I repent my haughty pride and greed 1593  
that caused such horrible  
miseries to these innocent victims  
of my sins. O divine judges, punish me 1596  
to suffer in scorching  
fires till I burn into nothingness  
to purge my sins. But absolve Oedipus 1599  
and Jocasta—they are  
the innocent hapless victims  
of my dreadful doom. Jocasta, my beloved! 1602  
Forgive me for your dire  
sufferings of agony and shame.  
I love you more than any who ever loved. 1605

Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

Dear Oedipus, let me  
call you my son in spirit, if not  
in the flesh. I see in you noble sincerity 1608  
of man that transcends dark  
tragedies wrought by the unseen  
unknowable fates.

*{Laius collapses and swoons. Jocasta gently  
embraces him in her bosom and weeps.}*

*[Jocasta]*

My beloved Laius, 1611  
your lofty magnanimity  
redeems us from all our miseries.  
Let me share with you our common fate in love. 1614

*{Oedipus crawls to reach them and gently  
embraces both Jocasta and Laius.}*

*[Oedipus]*

I love you both with all  
my heart and soul. May peace bless us.

Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

*[Acastus]*

Behold this enigmatic man, Oedipus—	1617
son of Chrysippus! By killing	
Laius unwittingly, you have	
avenged your concealed father, mocking at	1620
my hoax-oracle in	
the tragic farces of our brief life.	
The stern prophecy of your parricide	1623
has been comically	
slain by the astounding confession	
of your honest mother, Queen Jocasta.	1626

*[Oedipus]*

Ah, dark, deep puzzles of	
my origin, how subtly you perplex	
my confused mind! Pretentious prophecies,	1629
conjured up by cunning	
diviners for their greed and pride,	
ensnare countless credulous inane fools	1632
to commit awful misdeeds	
in trying to avert what happens	
naturally in the course of our life.	1635



Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

I am a fleeting froth  
in the mystic sea of incidents:  
Having sprung by mere accidents, why should 1638  
I fear to face who I am  
in truth? Nothing can make me other  
than who I am. Our experiences may grow 1641  
by living day by day,  
but no one can foresee the unseen  
yet to come!

*{Suddenly Hermes enters.}*

*[Hermes]*

Pardon me in interrupting 1644  
you, again, Queen Persephone.  
A piteous ghost of brave, upright, and  
noble lass entreats me to guide her to see 1647  
you concerning the sacred  
immutable law of heaven  
in burying the dead with proper due respect. 1650

Scene 9: *Jocasta's Testimony*

*[Persephone]*

Welcome Hermes! You have come  
just in perfect time. Would you like  
to know what astounding facts have been found 1653  
about the intriguing case  
of Oedipus?

*[Hermes]*

Yes, of course, I do!  
What did you find out about poor Oedipus, 1656  
doomed by the dire prophecy  
of Apollo?

*[Apollo]*

What prophecy  
of mine do you mean, my dear brother Hermes? 1659

*[Hermes]*

What? Ah, Apollo, what  
are you doing here at this grim  
court of the final judgment of the dead? 1662

*Scene 9: Jocasta's Testimony*

*[Apollo]*

I came down to watch dire  
tragic farces, conjured up by wily  
mortals, dooming credulous fools with hoax  
prophecies in sly abuse  
of my name. 1665

*[Hermes]*

What? Hoax prophecies?  
Then Oedipus must be blameless for his  
awful misdeeds? May I join with you to see  
how such an incredible  
tragic comedy unfolds in  
its final climax? 1668

*[Persephone]*

Certainly, Hermes! 1671  
By the way, didn't you come here  
to guide a lass who had pled you  
to see me about the burial rite of the dead? 1674

**Scene 9: Jocasta's Testimony**

*[Hermes]*

Thank you for reminding me!  
May I bring in the young lass, now?

*[Persephone]*

Yes. I wonder why a young maiden wants  
to see me about the law  
of burial.

1677

*{Hermes exits. The end of Scene #9}*

## Scene 10

### *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

Suddenly, Antigone's ghost enters, led by Hermes. She tells Oedipus that Creon put her to death as she disobeyed his stern edict not to bury her dead brother Polyneices because she believes that a proper burial of the dead is an immutable law of Heaven. The entire court pays respect to the brave upright Antigone as the champion and martyr of divine law. Jocasta revealed the astounding secret that all four children of Oedipus were born by a surrogate mother, not from her womb.

Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

*{Hermes brings in the ghost of Antigone.}*

*[Persephone to Antigone]*

Who are you, gentle lass?  
Why do you want to see me so urgently? 1680

*[Antigone]*

I am Antigone,  
a daughter of King Oedipus.

*[Oedipus]*

What? O, my dear Antigone! What has  
brought you down to this dark  
gloomy realm at the beautiful bloom  
of your fresh youth? 1683

*{Antigone rushes to embrace blind Oedipus.}*

Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

*[Antigone]*

O my dear father, how  
good to see you again. Cruel  
punishment, buried alive deep in  
a rock-hewn cave, robbed me of my young life.

1686  
1689

*[Oedipus]*

What, my dear child? Who did dare  
to inflict such horrible misdeeds  
to you?

*[Antigone]*

Creon.

*[Oedipus]*

Creon? Your uncle?

1692

*[Antigone]*

Yes!

Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

*[Oedipus]*

Why?

*[Antigone]*

Because I paid  
a proper funeral rite for  
Polyneices.

*[Jocasta]*

What? Is your brother also dead? 1695

*{Antigone recognizes Jocasta and rushes to embrace her.}*

*[Antigone]*

O my dear mother, yes  
he is dead; so is Eteocles, too.

*[Jocasta]*

Ah heavens! Why both of them died so young? 1698



Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

*[Antigone]*

They killed each other in  
fierce fights: Polynices attacked Thebes  
with his foreign allies; Eteocles strived  
to cling on to his throne. 1701

*[Persephone]*

What is Creon? Why did he punish  
you, Antigone, by such a cruel death? 1704

*[Antigone]*

He is the new king of Thebes.  
Soon after he was acclaimed to  
the throne, he proclaimed that he would honour  
the death of Eteocles 1707  
with solemn stately funeral.  
But he sternly decreed that the corpse of 1710  
Polynices must be  
left unburied in the wild to be  
fed by beasts and birds as he was a vile 1713

Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

traitor to his fatherland;  
Whoever would dare to bury him  
should be stoned to death.

*[Persephone]*

Despite such stern  
edict, you did bury  
your brother? 1716

*[Antigone]*

Yes, with love and respect  
I gave him a rite of burial, all by myself. 1719

*[Persephone]*

Why did you determine  
to disobey Creon's strict  
forbiddance, and to choose your cruel death? 1722

Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

*[Antigone]*

It was my conscience that  
had urged me to do what I did;  
Resolutely, I believe that proper 1725  
burial of the dead is  
an immutable law of Heaven,  
although I do not know whence it came from. 1728  
Yet, I know that I must  
not disobey this sacred law,  
lest I provoke the wrath of Heaven; nobody 1731  
can annul and override  
this timeless law of Heaven by  
venting his inane whims as absurd edicts. 1734

*{Persephone rises from her seat, comes  
to Antigone, and gently embraces her.}*

*[Persephone]*

Dear upright Antigone,  
you are a devout true martyr!  
You have resolutely upheld the sacred 1737

Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

immutable law of  
Heaven, defying the mortal's  
lethal edict. We honour you as our brave 1740  
champion of the divine law.

*{All judges rise from their seats to pay respect to Antigone.}*

*[All Judges]*

We admire you, gentle maiden,  
for your noble conscience and upright acts. 1743

*[Oedipus]*

Thank you, Queen Persephone  
and wise judges, for your generous,  
kind blessing on my beloved Antigone. 1746

She had been so gentle  
yet brave, so devout and noble  
at heart; she had sacrificed her blooming 1749

youth, guiding the blind steps  
of her accursed helpless father.  
Staunchly, she shared my dire miseries of harsh 1752

Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

exile, wandering in  
drenching rains and under the scorching sun,  
often hungry and footsore through wild, grim 1755  
forests, begging for doles  
to nurse her blind, helpless father  
for many years till I reached Colonus, at last: 1758  
the destined harbour for my rest.

*[Persephone]*

Why did you dare, Antigone,  
to give up the comfort and safety of home 1761  
and joined with your accursed  
father, banished to such utter  
miseries of hapless cruel wanderings? 1764

*[Antigone]*

Simply, I followed what  
my heart urged me to do: care for  
my father with heartfelt love from my soul. 1767  
Somehow I believe that  
such loving care for family  
must be an unwritten immutable 1770

Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

law of Heaven for us  
to obey, although I do not know  
whence it came from to guide our conscience. 1773

*[Sixth Judge]*

Your loving devotion  
to the sanctity of family  
uplifts our spirit, noble Antigone. 1776

*[First Judge]*

What did your brothers do  
while you suffered to take care of  
their father in miseries of wanderings? 1779

*[Antigone]*

They vied each other to seize  
the throne of Thebes.

*[Jocasta]*

Ah, insolent  
shameless villains in the same family! 1782

Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

What was the real cause for  
their horrible double fratricide,  
Antigone? Were they poor victims of  
another awful oracle? 1785

*[Antigone]*

No! Their tyrannical greed for  
power to rule and arrogant pride brought them  
down to their terrible  
mutual destructions. 1788

*[Jocasta]*

They had been  
both such bright, brave, and upright boys while I  
raised them. My horrible  
death must have ruined their noble spirit. 1791

*[Antigone]*

Without grudge, mother, must we bear the grave 1794

Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

heritage of your dire  
dreadful doom; your children are ill-  
fated fruits of the shameful incestuous misdeed— 1797  
we have been accursed by  
the gods, and ghastly abhorred by  
the people! The monstrous marriage-bed 1800  
where lay the son with his  
mother, begetting us; therein  
we were conceived by you. We are shameful 1803  
desecrated pollutions!

*[Jocasta]*

Stop it, Antigone! None of you  
came from my ill womb in truth. I solemnly 1806  
swear it to the gods as  
well as to you.

*[Antigone]*

What did you say,  
mother? Tell me, again, what you really mean. 1809



Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

*[Jocasta]*

I brought up all of you  
as a devoted mother with love,  
but none of you are fruits of my barren      1812  
womb. My lord Laius here  
be my witness: I made myself  
sterile after the dire agony of casting      1815  
away my firstborn baby  
at his stern behest.

*[Laius]*

I know it,  
Jocasta; how much we suffered our bleak      1818  
despair of childlessness  
due to my inane fears of Pelops's  
wrong curse!

*[Fourth Judge]*

I am fascinated, Jocasta,      1821  
to watch how your mystery  
unfolds as I have suspected.

Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

*[Antigone]*

If what you said is really true as I 1824  
eagerly hope so, dear  
mother, then who is the real mother  
of Oedipus's offspring? Have we been wrongly 1827  
despised as the hapless  
victims, reviled by a false incest?

*[Jocasta]*

Yes, my dear Antigone! You are pure; 1830  
Truly free from any blemish  
of an incest! Your real mother  
I called as Euryganeia, but her real 1833  
name and parentage remain  
still unknown to me.

*[Persephone]*

Oedipus,  
reveal this mysterious woman to us. 1836  
Was she your second wife  
or a mistress?

Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

*[Oedipus]*

How deeply I  
wish from my heart and soul that what Jocasta 1839  
has proclaimed would be all true.  
But in truth, I know nothing of such  
a mysterious woman: neither had I 1842  
a second wife nor secret  
mistresses.

*[Antigone in despair]*

Oh my good father, how  
much I wished that you knew such women! 1845  
It would have redeemed all  
of us from the awful disgrace  
of your despised incest.

*[Persephone]*

Jocasta, speak the truth 1848  
to us. Does Oedipus lie,  
or is it you who lie?

Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

*[Jocasta]*

Neither	
he nor I lie: I made Oedipus lie	1851
with her on my bed	
in the dark; he had never seen	
Euryganeia while he was sober or	1854
in daylight.	

*[Fourth Judge]*

Reveal secrets  
of your womanly intrigues.

*[Jocasta]*

One day, not long after I wedded the new	1857
youthful king, a tender lass	
came to me as a suppliant,	
begging for a secret safe shelter.	1860
Out of pity, I took	
her as a clandestine refuge	
in my palace, hidden from the sight of	1863

Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

people; she worked for me  
with honesty and devotion.  
I loved her as if she were my dear daughter. 1866  
One day, I confided her  
my secret fear; my young husband  
desired to beget our children, but my womb 1869  
had been barren. I was  
afraid that King Oedipus might get  
a young new wife, and discard me away from 1872  
his bed and my throne as  
Queen of Thebes. When I asked Euryganeia  
to serve as a surrogate mother for me, 1875  
she willingly pledged to  
help me faithfully.

*[Oedipus]*

Resourceful  
lady, Jocasta, how glad I am to find 1878  
that I was such a naïve  
fool, utterly unaware of your sly  
subtle womanly intrigues!

Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

*[Antigone]*

O gods, 1881  
I thank thee and my wise  
mother—nay, my good prudent grand-  
mother, Jocasta! You had saved us from 1884  
the abhorred vile disgrace.

*{Antigone embraces Jocasta in tears of joy.}*

*[Fourth Judge]*

Where is this mother of mystery,  
you call Euryganeia? Does she still live 1887  
in Thebes, Jocasta?

*[Jocasta]*

No! She died soon after giving  
birth to her fourth child, tender Ismene. 1890

Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

*[Antigone sobbing]*

Ah, our loving mother!  
O gracious goddess of divine  
mercy, I implore you to grant a humble 1893  
daughter's heartfelt prayer:  
Let me see the loving face of  
my real mother and be embraced in her 1896  
warm motherly bosom,  
at long last. Please find her for me,  
searching everywhere in your vast mystic realm. 1899

*[Persephone]*

Certainly, we will search  
for the mysterious woman who  
had brought you to the light, Antigone. 1902  
Who can be a better  
witness to solve such an intriguing  
mystery that enchants us? I am curious 1905  
to see your mother myself.

Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance*

*[Fourth Judge]*

I will go with Jocasta to find  
the real mother of Oedipus's offspring. 1908

*[Antigone]*

Would you please take me with you?  
This will be the day of my rebirth!

*[Jocasta]*

My good sweet lass, Antigone, pray here  
that we will find your real  
mother and come back with her soon. 1911

*[Oedipus]*

Hold me, gentle Antigone. I tremble  
in awe and excitements 1914  
like a young child waiting for his long-  
lost mother. May this day bless us to be  
reborn in pure innocence. 1917



**Scene 10: *Antigone's Sudden Appearance***

*{Antigone embraces Oedipus.}*

*[Antigone]*

Yes, my dear father, let us pray  
to the gods for the blissful miracle  
of our redemption from  
the accursed disgrace.

1920

*{Oedipus and Antigone kneel in prayer. Jocasta leaves  
with Fourth Judge. The end of Scene #10.}*

## Scene 11

### *Arete's Testimony*

The ghost of a veiled woman, led by Jocasta, enters. She affirms that she gave birth to all four children by Oedipus as a surrogate mother. Antigone is overjoyed to learn that she was not a product of abhorred incest. The divine court of the final judgment decides unanimously that Oedipus is innocent from his inadvertent misdeeds. Thus acquitted at last, his vision is restored. Oedipus recognizes that the surrogate mother of his children is Arete, his beloved maiden of Corinth in his youth. The court holds a closed meeting to decide on the new lots for Oedipus and Antigone.

Scene 11: *Arete's Testimony*

*{The court resumes. Fourth Judge brings in Arete, her face covered in a veil, guided by Jocasta.}*

*[Persephone]*

Are you the real  
mother of Antigone?

*[Arete]*

Yes, I did give  
her birth by Oedipus.

1923

*[Persephone]*

Why do you hide your face behind  
the veil?

*[Arete]*

My queen Jocasta wishes to keep it  
unseen till the proper time comes.

1926

Scene 11: *Arete's Testimony*

*[Persephone]*

What is your real name and parentage?

*[Arete]*

I shall reveal them when my veil is removed  
by the hand of the proper  
person.

1929

*[Persephone]*

Who is such a person?

*[Arete]*

Oedipus!

*[Persephone]*

As I guessed it. But do you know  
that he cannot see your face  
even after he unveils you?

1932

Scene 11: *Arete's Testimony*

*{Arete humbly prostrates as a suppliant.}*

*[Arete]*

O goddess of mercy, gracious Persephone,	1935
I entreat you from depth	
of my heart and soul to restore	
his previous keen, bright sight to Oedipus!	1938

*[Persephone to all Judges]*

The time has come for us	
to decide the final judgment	
on Oedipus. Speak your verdict with fair and	1941
clear justification.	

*[First Judge]*

My verdict is that Oedipus	
is not guilty, in spite of his ghastly	1944
misdeeds, because he had	
never intended to carry out	
such horrible transgressions on purpose.	1947

Scene 11: *Arete's Testimony*

*[Second Judge]*

Oedipus is blameless;  
In a tragic irony, he carried  
out his terrible misdeeds in order  
to avoid them resolutely.

1950

*[Third Judge]*

Oedipus is not guilty; he had  
been a hapless victim of hoax oracles  
and unseen accidents  
in the course of his turbulent life.

1953

*[Fourth Judge]*

Oedipus is innocent; enduring throes  
of fears and agonies, he  
persisted in seeking the truth  
of his accursed misdeeds, all committed  
inadvertently in his  
heroic efforts to avert them.

1956

1959

Scene 11: *Arete's Testimony*

*[Fifth Judge]*

I judge that Oedipus is not guilty:	1962
Despite his awful	
misdeeds, I respect his courage	
and honesty to find out what he had	1965
done unintentionally.	

*[Sixth Judge]*

Oedipus is blameless; he has	
kept up his conscience in seeking the true	1968
causes of his misdeeds,	
resolutely bearing all pangs	
of painful shames and throes of dire anguishes.	1971
He shows the nobility	
of human: fleeting, frail, yet thinking	
froth—a miracle in the vast sea of being.	1974

*[Persephone]*

I concur with all what	
you have spoken. Hence, this court	
solemnly proclaims that Oedipus is	1977

Scene 11: *Arete's Testimony*

innocent and free from  
any blame for his inadvertent  
misdeeds. Hence, I will restore him his sight. 1980

*[Persephone to attendants]*

Let Antigone lead in  
her father, Oedipus, to us.

*{Oedipus is led in by Antigone. Persephone rises  
from her seat, comes forward, and raises Arete.}*

*[Persephone]*

Come Oedipus! Walk to me by yourself,  
as if you can see again. 1983

*{Gently touching Oedipus's eyes, Persephone restores his  
vision and his noble, handsome visage.}*

Now, gently uncover the veil  
from this mysterious woman you behold. 1986

*{Trembling in awe and wonder, Oedipus tenderly  
removes the veil from Arete.}*



Scene 11: *Arete's Testimony*

*[Oedipus]*

O light! What a wondrous  
new sight! Whom do I see here?  
O gods, it is you, my dear beloved Arete!

1989

*[Arete]*

O my love, Oedipus!

*{Oedipus and Arete embrace in tears of joy.}*

*[Oedipus]*

How miraculous and blissful  
to see you, again, my beloved Arete!

1992

It is your tender love  
that has saved my soul, despite all  
those dire fateful catastrophes in my dark,  
hard, tumultuous life.

1995

*[Arete]*

I have always loved you, my dear  
brave Oedipus with all my heart and soul,

1998

Scene 11: *Arete's Testimony*

in the secret of dark  
nights during my intriguing hidden  
life in Thebes as well as in the pleasant  
daylight of our happy  
innocent youth in our cherished  
beautiful Corinth. 2001

*{Antigone rushes to Arete: they embrace  
each other.}*

O my darling daughter,  
Antigone! 2004  
*[Antigone]*

Oh, dear  
mother, mine! This is the day of  
my rebirth nestling in your warm bosom! 2007  
It seems just a dream, too  
good to believe that this is real.  
How happy I am, my true dear mother, 2010  
to behold you at long last!

*[Arete]*

I have missed you, my sweet tender  
Antigone, so deep in my yearning heart. 2013

Scene 11: *Arete's Testimony*

But I wonder why you  
have come down here at the beautiful  
bloom of your lovely youth, my dear Antigone? 2016

*[Antigone]*

Just to see you, my mother—  
you are my very life, nothing else  
I will ever need!

*{Oedipus gently embraces Antigone.}*

*[Oedipus]*

How wondrous to see 2019  
your lovely noble face again,  
my gentle Antigone. Oh, this  
ineffable bliss through long throes of dire 2022  
agonies! Time in its mystic  
fathomless course brings all to light,  
then buries them again into boundless depths 2025  
beyond fleeting memories  
of all mortals.

Scene 11: *Arete's Testimony*

*{Jocasta embraces Arete, Antigone, and Oedipus.}*

*[Jocasta]*

O my beloved  
children, blessed with pure, gentle, noble hearts! 2028  
I exalt the gods for  
your glorious resurrection!  
Gracious Goddess, Persephone, may I 2031  
bring in Laius here to  
share with him this blissful miracle?

*[Persephone]*

Certainly, good Jocasta! Bring in Acastus 2034  
too, to see his long-lost  
daughter, Arete, here.

*[Jocasta]*

Thank you,  
goddess of mercy! Your compassion has 2037  
revived us all in bliss.

Scene 11: *Arete's Testimony*

*{Jocasta leaves with attendants. Soon she returns, holding the hands of Laius and Acastus. Suddenly, Acastus recognizes his long-lost daughter, Arete.}*

*[Acastus]*

Whom do I see? O holy heavens!  
Arete—my long-lost beloved daughter! 2040

*{Acastus swoons. Arete rushes to hold him in her arm. Soon Acastus regains his sense.}*

*[Arete]*

O my dear good father,  
please forgive your hapless daughter,  
forlorn since so young in awful dire mishaps 2043  
of her wretched tragic life.

*[Acastus weeping]*

It is I who am guilty of  
all your sufferings of terrible miseries. 2046

Scene 11: *Arete's Testimony*

I beg you for your kind  
forgiveness of your foolish, selfish  
father. Thrones of many great kingdoms cannot 2049  
replace the pure lovely  
smiles of my gentle, noble daughter  
in this repenting heart!

*[Second Judge]*

Ah, clever and 2052  
resourceful King Acastus,  
how miraculously the ghastly  
tragedy of your wily hoax prophecies 2055  
comes out to end in such  
a blissful comedy like this one!  
It moves us in deep surprise and delight! 2058

*[Persephone]*

I hereby proclaim that  
Oedipus has been found to be  
innocent and blameless for his inadvertent 2061  
misdeeds by the unanimous  
judgments of this final court.  
You are completely free, upright Oedipus! 2064

Scene 11: *Arete's Testimony*

*{Oedipus kneels in humble prayer.}*

*[Oedipus]*

Thank you, compassionate  
goddess Persephone and wise judges  
for your kind and fair judgment on my case! 2067

I am very grateful that  
the god of guidance, Hermes, kindly  
led my blind steps to reach here and the god 2070  
of prophecy, Apollo,  
came down to witness my trial.

Most of all, I am deeply inspired by 2073  
the wisdom of Apollo:

He has enlightened me to see  
the sublime light of true divine justice. 2076

I shall follow the light  
of heartfelt conscience that leads us  
to the way to the truth; I shall listen to 2079  
its deep inner voice, and  
obey it devoutly to guide me.

Scene 11: *Arete's Testimony*

*[Jocasta]*

Merciful goddess Persephone, I wish  
to plead you for one more  
gracious favour.

2082

*[Persephone]*

What is it, Jocasta?

*[Jocasta]*

Please marry this loving pair: Oedipus to  
Arete.

2085

*[Acastus]*

I plead you  
to unite them ever in love.

*[Laius]*

May their noble hearts be blessed in sacred  
happy marriage, I implore.

2088



Scene 11: *Arete's Testimony*

*[Persephone]*

I appreciate that you wish me	
to wed them. But marriage is beyond	2091
my jurisdiction. You must	
pray to Zeus and Hera for	
their blessing of the long-delayed marriage	2094
between Oedipus acquitted	
and Arete found. Now, we should	
decide the future lots of Oedipus and	2097
Antigone in our realm.	
As it is a confidential matter	
of this court, I dismiss you to wait outside	2100
till we make a final	
decision. I thank you, Apollo	
and Hermes, for your invaluable help	2103
in solving the enigma	
of Oedipus. As his case has been	
successfully closed, you would be happy	2106
to ascend back to your lofty	
Olympus.	

Scene 11: *Arete's Testimony*

*[Hermes]*

May I wait outside?  
I am anxious to hear what you would decide  
on their lots in your realm. 2109

*[Apollo]*

I am very curious about it, too.

*[Persephone]*

Certainly, kind gods, if you do not mind it. 2112

*{While Persephone holds a confidential meeting  
with the judges inside, Apollo and Hermes leave  
the court to wait outside with the mortal crowds.  
The end of Scene #11.}*

## **Scene 12**

### **Apollo and Hermes converse on Humanity and Divinity**

<Scene 12> While waiting outside the court, Apollo and Hermes pursue deep ontological discussions about the nature of humankind, their use of language, and their strange, enigmatic, and fanatic zeal in playing their fantastic and tragic comedies, called religions.

Scene 12: *Conversing on Humanity and Divinity*

*{Apollo and Hermes converse with each other  
in private, separated from the mortal crowds  
in the outside of the court.}*

*[Apollo to Hermes in private]*

I am deeply moved by  
the fascinating actual lives  
of these mortals so vividly re-enacted 2115  
during the final judgment.  
There are many things, I think, we gods  
should learn from these suffering earnest humans. 2118

*[Hermes to Apollo in private]*

Somehow I feel the same way  
as you have expressed, Apollo.  
But I am not quite sure what things of these 2121  
humans have moved us so.  
Would you please expound them for me?

*[Apollo to Hermes in private]*

Scene 12: *Conversing on Humanity and Divinity*

The heroic bearings of their dire fates, 2124  
    regardless of whether  
they were real or fake, and their kind  
sacrifices for others move me deeply. 2127  
    Most of all, I respect  
the nobility of their pure  
conscience for righteousness, their heartfelt 2130  
    repentance, and eager  
forgiveness. A man of conscience  
seeks to know who he is in truth as if 2133  
    it is the ultimate  
wisdom coming from *Apollo*.  
And yet such a man makes me to wonder 2136  
    who I really am in truth  
behind this mask of *Apollo*.

*[Hermes to Apollo in private]*

Yes, I concur with what you have clarified 2139  
    so explicitly. I  
agree that we, gods, need to learn  
from the noble sufferings of these keenly 2142  
    self-conscious good humans.

Scene 12: *Conversing on Humanity and Divinity*

I confess that often I feel  
deeply confused who I am. Why must I 2145  
do what I've been so used  
to do: endless journeying without  
rests across countless boundaries between 2148  
the heaven of immortals  
and the earth of mortals, traversing  
abysmal gulfs between the realm of the quick 2151  
and the dark realm of the dead?  
I must carry out all these hard and  
heartbreaking tasks without exerting my own 2154  
free-will to make decisions.  
I am merely a babbler  
of what others say: a blind guide for the blind 2157  
alive or dead. Am I not  
a witness, helpless slave of Zeus?  
Enlighten me, wise brother Apollo: 2160  
How can I free myself  
from this plight of my condemned godhead?

*[Apollo to Hermes in private]*

Everyone must play one's role faithfully 2163

Scene 12: *Conversing on Humanity and Divinity*

in diverse plays, conjured up  
by human minds.

*[Hermes to Apollo in private]*

What do you mean?  
Are we merely puppets, playing on the stage 2166  
set up by the humans' whims?

*[Apollo to Hermes in private]*

Yes. In fact, 'gods' do not exist  
in themselves but only in the impulsive 2169  
fanciful imaginations  
of the fickle, fleeting humans!

*[Hermes to Apollo in private]*

How can what you have said be true? If you 2172  
really do not exist  
in yourself, Apollo, how can you  
speak on such profound mystery of non-being 2175  
of immortal beings?

Scene 12: *Conversing on Humanity and Divinity*

*[Apollo to Hermes in private]*

That is how humans imagine  
their unseen gods to be: all their gods are 2178  
bound to use the human  
language as we are speaking now.  
Their gods must think, feel, and act, as if we 2181  
were their idol-puppets,  
worshiped by humans with their crazy  
rituals in their weird plays, called '*religions*.' 2184

*[Hermes to Apollo in private]*

How such dull, frail, paltry,  
fleeting creatures as humans could  
make us up—powerful immortal beings— 2187  
as if we were merely  
their idol-puppets?

*[Apollo to Hermes in private]*

By the use of  
their language, the humans create the whole 2190  
world with words in their minds.



Scene 12: *Conversing on Humanity and Divinity*

They speak of real things as well as  
what they merely imagine as if those were 2193  
all true such as their '*gods*'  
'*souls*,' '*right*,' or '*wrong*:' this is the very  
mystery that puzzles me in deep amazement. 2196  
There are myriad diverse kinds  
of creatures that have roamed on Earth;  
But none of them had the magic ability 2199  
to use language until  
the humans evolved from other  
creatures. But how they acquired the subtle art 2202  
of using language, I do not know.  
At birth, no human babe knows any language.  
And yet, all of them somehow acquire soon 2205  
the marvellous ability  
to speak a particular language  
used in their society; furthermore, the humans 2208  
have invented writings  
to preserve expressions of their thoughts  
and feelings across the vast gulf of distances 2211  
through deep abyss of time.

Scene 12: *Conversing on Humanity and Divinity*

*[Hermes to Apollo in private]*

But what is a human language?  
Isn't it merely puffing sounds fading in the air? 2214

What meaning and power  
can it have for those who know nothing  
of their strange noises or wriggling markings? 2217

*[Apollo to Hermes in private]*

A human language is  
nothing but an arbitrary  
convention adhered by a society 2220  
of human beings as  
their particular method used  
for their social communications. 2223

It has no absolute  
meaning in itself but only for  
its users.

*[Hermes to Apollo in private]*

If so, how can the helpless 2226

Scene 12: *Conversing on Humanity and Divinity*

weak humans outwit the wise,  
mighty gods by using their language  
that cannot convey any meaning to the divine? 2229

*[Apollo to Hermes in private]*

Clever priests and glib poets  
pretend that their gods and goddesses  
use their language as if we were members 2232  
of their own society.

Human's wily false attribution  
of the mystic dubious oracles to 2235  
an '*Apollo*' is a good  
example, pertinent to this play.

They choose certain women as their prophetic 2238  
priestesses who are supposed  
to communicate with '*Apollo*'

while they have been induced to fall into 2241  
hallucination, mounted on  
their tripod seats in deep, solemn crypts.

Whatever the priestesses say during their 2244  
delirium is deemed by

the attending priests to be the divine  
words from Zeus conveyed to her via '*Apollo!*' 2247

Scene 12: *Conversing on Humanity and Divinity*

*[Hermes to Apollo in private]*

How, in fact, do those priestesses  
communicate with you while their mad  
minds wander in their lunatic delirium? 2250

*[Apollo to Hermes in private]*

Absolutely, I have  
nothing to do with them! Whatever  
humans say about divine prophecy are 2253  
all glib fibs, conjured up  
by cunning humans; they misuse  
their phony gods as their idol-puppets. 2256

Humans enjoy to play  
their idiotic, absurd, tragic farces  
of religions, as if they had transcended 2259  
their inane humanness  
to become a ‘*super-god*’ who  
makes up all other gods to play in their 2262  
plays, called ‘*religions*’— all  
conjured up by the wily humans.

Scene 12: *Conversing on Humanity and Divinity*

*[Hermes to Apollo in private]*

How can I quit from playing such a god  
in their play? I want to be  
a good human! 2265

*[Apollo to Hermes in private]*

What? Why do you  
want to be a helpless mortal creature? 2268

*[Hermes to Apollo in private]*

I have fallen deeply  
in love with a gracious, upright,  
and compassionate human.

*[Apollo to Hermes in private]*

Who is she? 2271

*{Suddenly Third Judge comes out the court.}*

**Scene 12: *Conversing on Humanity and Divinity***

*[Third Judge]*

Queen Persephone calls you  
all to come back into the court.

*{Everyone returns to the inside of the court.  
The end of Scene #12}*

## Scene 13

### *Antigone Acclaimed as a New Divine Judge*

<Scene 13> The divine court proclaims that Antigone is elected to be a new divine judge for the final judgment, and that Oedipus to be the guardian of Elysium. Apollo invites all characters involved in Oedipus's trial to come up to Olympus and present their human tragedy to move the gods. But Oedipus confesses that he cannot enact his awful past in a play. He pleads to be free as a nobody in peace, and exits the stage to vanish into the void. Hermes and Apollo follow him to watch what happens.

Scene 13: *Antigone Acclaimed as a Divine Judge*

*<Apollo and Hermes sit with the judges. Others stand in the court. Persephone rises from her seat.>*

*[Persephone]*

Thank you all for waiting. I hereby  
solemnly proclaim that  
Antigone has been elected  
as our new divine judge for the final judgment  
of the dead by the unanimous  
acclamation of this court. Come here,  
Judge Antigone, take your sacred seat  
next to me!

2274  
2277  
2280

*{Stunned in awe and wonder everyone humbly prostrates down. In delight Hermes gently raises up Antigone and walks affectionately with her to Persephone. Antigone kneels in graceful devout poise.}*

*[Antigone in humble prostration]*

Gracious Queen  
Persephone and wise judges  
of this divine court! Your kind trust on this

2283



Scene 13: *Antigone Acclaimed as a Divine Judge*

humble maiden takes her  
breath away. Please guide her to learn  
the way of divine justice with your great wisdom 2286  
and kind generosity.  
She shall strive to fulfill her sacred  
duty with utmost devotion, faithfulness, 2289  
and pure conscience.

*{Persephone raises Antigone and gently puts her  
on her seat as a new divine judge.}*

*[Persephone]*

Now, let  
us celebrate this glorious  
apotheosis of our new divine judge, 2292  
virtuous Antigone!

*{Persephone bestows a divine diadem and robe  
upon Antigone. Everyone exults the miraculous  
blissful events, elated in wonder and thanks.}*

*[Apollo to Persephone]*

I wish to know what you have  
decided about a lot of new life for Oedipus. 2295

Scene 13: *Antigone Acclaimed as a Divine Judge*

*[Persephone]*

Our court of the final  
judgement decided to recommend  
the acquitted Oedipus to King Hades 2298  
for an appointment to  
be the guardian of Elysium.

*{Everyone rejoices and congratulates Oedipus.}*

*[Apollo in delight]*

Hear me, good people, what my heart urges to 2301  
speak: I want to invite  
you all to visit Hermes and me  
in Olympus. I request you to re-enact 2304  
your real lives on the stage  
for the Olympian gods to watch,  
and appreciate them; the gods have, I think, 2307  
a lot to learn from how  
nobly you have endured your dire fates.  
I will compose the music to go with 2310

Scene 13: *Antigone Acclaimed as a Divine Judge*

your performance. If you  
succeed in moving the deities  
to weep in sympathy for you, then they 2313  
will grant whatever  
you pray for with divine blessing.  
How does my proposal for such a playing 2316  
in Olympus sound to you?

*[Laius]*

O wise speaker of truth, Apollo!  
We shall obey most willingly to perform 2319  
whatever you command us  
to play with all our heart and soul.

*[Acastus]*

It would be a fantastic dream for us 2322  
to visit unseen Olympus.

*[Hermes]*

I will stay here to help you all  
prepare for it. When I deem that you are ready 2325

Scene 13: *Antigone Acclaimed as a Divine Judge*

for moving performance,  
I will guide you to Olympus.

*{Oedipus humbly kneels to supplicate.}*

*[Oedipus]*

Please forgive me, wise Apollo and kind	2328
Hermes. I confess that	
I cannot replay my awful past	
on stage. At last, I am freed from utter	2331
agonies and throes of stern	
punishments by my conscience	
as I learn the truth through my final trial	2334
at this court. There is nothing	
else I desire to attain. I wish	
to forget myself in pure oblivion.	2337

*[Apollo to Oedipus]*

I respect what you mean,  
bold man of insightful wisdom!

*{Hermes stands up, and gently raises Oedipus.}*

Scene 13: *Antigone Acclaimed as a Divine Judge*

*[Hermes]*

You are the bravest man of true conscience, 2340  
inspiring us to hear  
deep inner voice of one's conscience!

*[Oedipus, bowing to Persephone and judges]*

Gracious Queen Persephone and wise judges! 2343  
Your solemn admission  
of Antigone to be a new judge  
of this divine court of the final judgment 2346  
is a miraculous blessing  
beyond what I ever dreamed of.  
I do not desire any further honour 2349  
nor vain power to rule.

*[Persephone]*

I understand what you intend.  
You are completely free to follow what 2352  
your conscience commands.

Scene 13: *Antigone Acclaimed as a Divine Judge*

*[Oedipus to all]*

It is time for me to depart.  
I bid you all my farewell with deep love.

2355

*[Persephone]*

To where are you going?

*[Oedipus]*

Nowhere. I shall vanish into  
nobody in deep void unknown to all.

2358

*{Oedipus walks away in awesome poise.}*

*[Hermes]*

I will follow him to see  
what happens.

**Scene 13: *Antigone Acclaimed as a Divine Judge***

*[Apollo]*

I will join with you  
to witness this strange and enigmatic event!

2361

*{Hermes and Apollo exit the stage,  
following Oedipus. All others remain  
stunned in awe and overwhelmed in wonder.  
The end of Scene 13.}*

## Scene 14

### Departure of Oedipus into Nothingness

Hermes and Apollo returns to the stage. Hermes relates to Antigone how miraculously Oedipus has transcended into nobody. In the absence of the crucial protagonist, Apollo concedes that his wishful plan for the play, *Tragic Comedies of Humans*, to be presented to the gods in Olympus has to be abandoned. Then Hermes asserts resolutely that he will play the role of Oedipus. Thus encouraged, Apollo leads all witnesses to enact their past in the play in the Olympus. Hermes follows as a blind protagonist, tenderly guided by Antigone in love.



Scene 14: *Departure of Oedipus into Nothingness*

*{Hermes and Apollo returns to the stage.}*

*[Antigone to Hermes]*

O God of compassion,  
please share with us what actually  
happened to my dear father.

*[Hermes]*

	Certainly,	2364
I will relate to you,		
divine judge Antigone, what had		
happened as much as I could perceive.		2367
We followed the solitary		
steps trodden by your bold, brave father,		
passing through mysterious, strange passages,		2370
over the vast span of lands,		
past shadows of sunsets, and mystic		
shores of fanciful ephemeral dreams.		2373
When he reached the very end		
of lands by sea, he stood still, rapt		
in deep thought, gazing at the horizon.		2376

Scene 14: *Departure of Oedipus into Nothingness*

Suddenly an ethereal  
rainbow appeared in the lofty sky;  
It formed a graceful numinous bridge which 2379  
connected the edge of land  
to the boundless sky. Your father  
humbly prostrated on earth in solemn prayer. 2382  
Then he took off the ground,  
and began to climb up the rainbow.  
In awesome stately grandeur, he ascended 2385  
high and miraculously  
transcended into the deep void.

*[Antigone]*

Did he reach the Olympus by himself 2388  
without your divine guidance?

*[Hermes]*

He did not come to the Olympus,  
I am certain. But whereto he disappeared 2391  
I do not know at all.

Scene 14: *Departure of Oedipus into Nothingness*

*[Persephone]*

What a strange, enigmatic, and  
mysterious end we hear! Apollo, 2394  
do you confirm it? If so,  
would you please explain to us how  
such bewildering events could happen? 2397

*[Apollo]*

I saw what had happened  
as Hermes related vividly.  
Everything changes from being to non-being, 2400  
then back to being, and so on  
in the cosmic drama of nature.

*[Persephone]*

Do you still hope to stage your proposed play 2403  
by these humans without its main  
protagonist to show it to the gods  
in Olympus? If you do not, I will dismiss 2406  
them to return to their allotted  
provenances as soon as possible.

Scene 14: *Departure of Oedipus into Nothingness*

*[Apollo in sombre mood]*

Sincerely, I believe that it would be 2409  
a meaningful as well as  
deeply moving play if its bold  
protagonist had agreed to perform 2412  
his crucial tragic role.  
Since he refused it and vanished  
forever into nothingness, I have to 2415  
abandon my wishful plan  
of the play.

*[Hermes in pensive mood]*

Apollo, if you  
find someone to play the role of Oedipus, 2418  
would you carry out your plan?

*[Apollo]*

My dear brother Hermes, I don't know  
where I could find such a brave, sincere person. 2421

Scene 14: *Departure of Oedipus into Nothingness*

*[Hermes]*

Right here and now; I will  
assume the role of Oedipus  
as best as I can!

*[Apollo]*

What? You, immortal god,  
willing to play as if  
you were a helpless mortal creature?

2424

*[Hermes]*

Yes, my wise brother Apollo. I am  
determined to do it  
as it is the best and only way  
to learn the deep mystery of human beings.

2427

2430

*[Apollo to Hermes]*

Thank you, my trusty brother.  
You will be the perfect protagonist!

Scene 14: *Departure of Oedipus into Nothingness*

*[Apollo to all]*

I will lead you all up to the Olympus  
to perform '*Tragic Comedies*  
*of Humans.*' 2433

*{Apollo guides all witnesses to Olympus:  
Laius and Jocasta hand in hand follow him;  
Next, Acastus and Arete follow them;  
Tiresias and the Thrall walk behind.}*

*[Hermes to Antigone]*

I am blind; Hold my hand;  
Guide me through this mystic inner journey  
to see the light, my beloved  
Antigone! 2436

*[Antigone]*

I will obey you  
ever in love, my revered compassionate Hermes. 2439

*{Tenderly Antigone holds Hermes's hand;  
They walk together in love off the stage.}*

**The End**



## Epilogue

The present play on the mythological character, Oedipus, was inspired by and based on the Theban tragedies of Sophocles (c. 497 – c. 405): *Antigone*; *Oedipus Tyrannus*; and *Oedipus at Colonus*. It unfolds an imaginary trial of Oedipus in the divine court of the final judgment in Hades, following the self-blinded tragic hero Oedipus met his death at Colonus in awe-inspiring dignity.

[1] The conversations of the Theban characters portrayed in this drama have been based on the classic texts of the Theban tragedies of Sophocles (496 – 406 BCE): *Oedipus the king*, *Oedipus at Colonus*, and *Antigone*; translated by Francis Storr (1912), Loeb Classical Library, Harvard University Press.

[2] The imaginary judgement of the dead in Hades was conjured up from *The Odyssey* of Homer [Books 11 and 24], translated by A. T. Murray (1919), Loeb Classical Library, *The Republic* of Plato [Book 10], translated by P. Shorey, Loeb Classical Library (1935), *The Aeneid* of Virgil [Book 6], translated by H.R. Fairclough, Loeb Classical Library (1916), and *The Divine Comedy* of Dante, translated by C.S. Singleton (1970-80), Princeton University Press.



[3] The plausible affairs among Laius, Chrysippus, and Pelops {lines 798 – 969 in Scene #7 } were speculated from the relevant legends cited in *Early Greek Myth* by Timothy Ganz (1993), Johns Hopkins University Press.

[4] The alleged love affairs between Chrysippus and Jocasta {lines 1549 – 1644 in Scene # 9} are merely a fictitious invention by the author.

[5] The character ‘Acastus’ of Corinth {lines 484 – 637 in Scene #5} was conjured up to make the enigmatic legend of Oedipus sensible to the best of this author’s imagination. It is purely a fictional character who plays a critical role only in this play.

[6] The character ‘Arete’ {lines 1794 – 1922 in Scene #10 and lines 1923 – 2080 in Scene #11} was invented to be the Acastus’s graceful daughter, who had been deeply in love with Oedipus in their happy youth in Corinth, and to serve as the secret surrogate mother of all four children by Oedipus in Thebes. This is purely a fanciful invention imagined by the author; there are no legends in Greek myth that may allude to it.

[7] The imaginary dialogues between Apollo and Hermes on the nature of humankind, their use of language, and their invention of religions {lines 2123 – 2217 in Scene #12} are merely the author’s private invention; they have nothing to do with the traditional thoughts of the Greek mythology or the beliefs of the Greek religion.

[8] The election of Antigone to be a judge of the divine court of the final judgment {lines 2274 – 2293 in Scene #13} is merely a wishful invention.

[9] The Apollo's invitation of all characters to re-enact their lives in a play, "*Tragic Comedies of Humans*," to be performed in the Olympus for the gods to watch and appreciate {lines 2301 – 2327 in Scene #13}; the Oedipus's polite decline and his awe-inspiring sublime transcendence into nothingness at peace {lines 2328 – 2402 in Scene #13}, and Hermes's offer to assume the crucial role of Oedipus to perform the play {lines 2403 – 2439 in Scene #14} are purely the author's private imaginations in which he wishes to conclude this play beyond the enigmatic ancient Greek legend of the awe-inspiring mythical character: *Oedipus*.

Art Aeon



